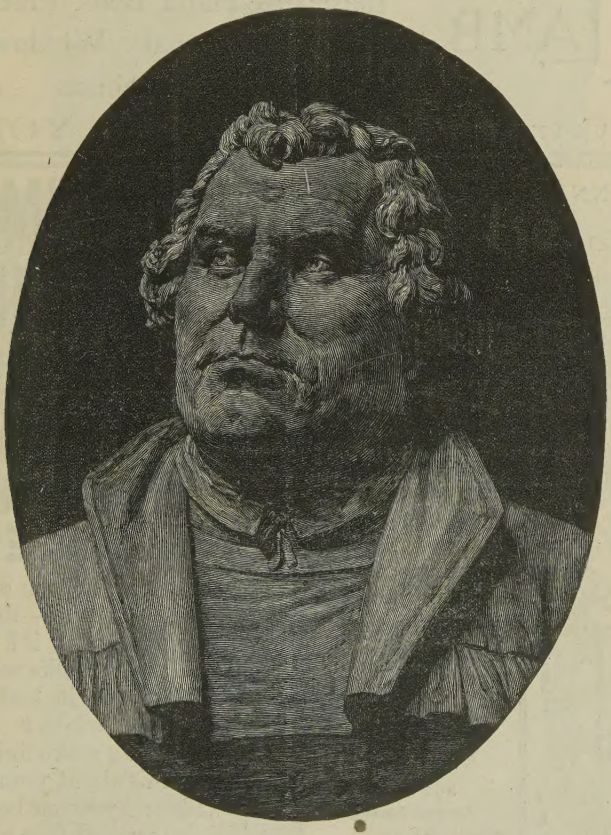
Volume XI NOVEMBER, 1898 No. 5

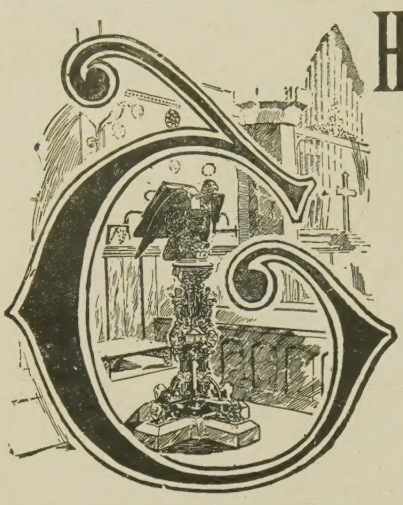
Of the Church—By the Church—For the Church

Luther League Review

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE LUTHER LEAGUE OF AMERICA



BORN NOVEMBER 10, 1483 DR. MARTIN LUTHER DIED FEBRUARY 18, 1546



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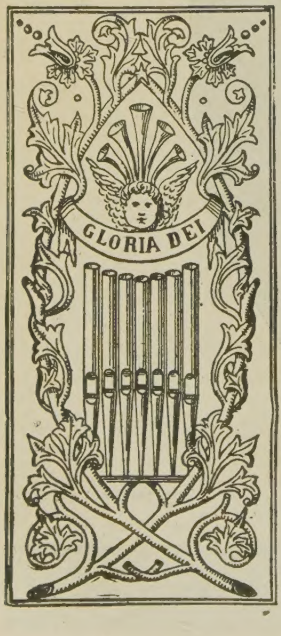

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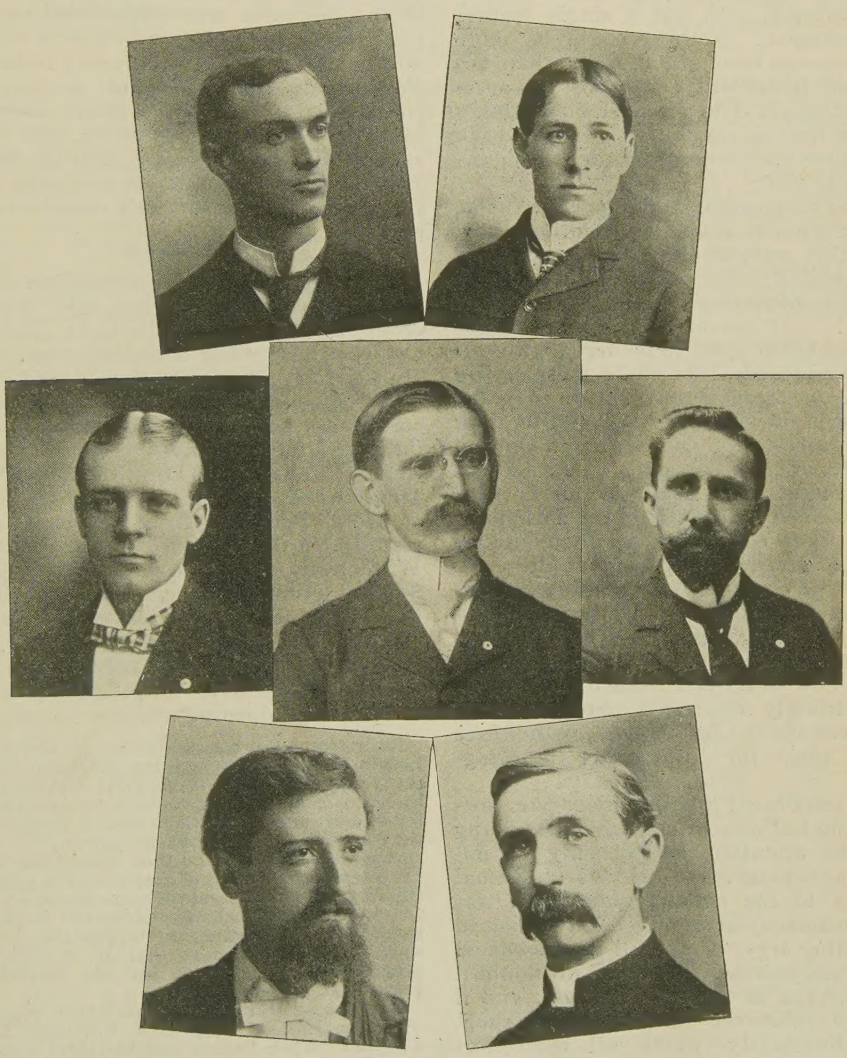


GEO. M. JONES, STAT. SECY. C. G. GRAUER, ASST. GEN'L SECY.
M. C. OLSON, GEN'L SECY. E. F. EILERT, PRES. CORNELIUS ECKHARDT, TREAS.
REV. C. L. FRY, LITERARY SECY. REV. G. H. SCHNUR, JR., ASST. LITERARY SECY.

Luther League

OF AMERICA

Third Convention, in New York City, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, October 18, 19 and 20, 1898

Introductory

BY REV. CHARLES L. FRY

The long looked for Third National Convention has come and gone. Who among even the most sanguine prophets would have dared to predict that it would all transpire just as everybody would himself have preferred, with not a single feature to be changed? Nothing could be more utterly remote from our thought than the claim of infallibility, yet we are profoundly thankful to discover no mistakes made by the Convention as we look back and recount its whole proceedings from beginning to end.

If good citizenship be an important theme for our young people's attention, how could this subject have been presented more forcefully than it was by Dr. Wolf, on "The Education of the Public Conscience?" If the claims of our colleges and seminaries need to be urged with all possible emphasis, how could these crying demands be more clearly shown to be the very test of our character and destiny than by Dr. Jacobs, on "Our Lutheran Church in Her Relation to Schools?" If a fervent appeal ought to be made to our devoted young women in behalf of the Deaconess calling, how could the peculiar dignity and high privilege of this noble life work be more convincingly set forth than in Dr. Studebaker's address? If the spirit of missions be the gauge of religious vitality, and the measure of ultimate success or failure, how could this tremendous fact be more strongly impressed upon the consciousness of our Church than by the three stirring pleas for "Extending the Kingdom?"

The prominent place which our fast-increasing Lutheran literature must occupy in public attention, as not only an immense advantage, but also as an actual necessity to the coming generation, was kept continually before the Convention in the inviting array of helpful new books on the literary secretary's table. No doubt it was intended as an object lesson, and it certainly subserved its purpose as such, being abundantly worth all the effort which it must have cost. Everybody voted on the selection of future Reading Courses, as well as on the subjects for the Topics; hence these are henceforth to be determined by the entire body of delegates, and not simply by a few committee men.

The New York Convention also set the standard for all future National Conventions of the League, in the commendable fact of its scrupulous attention to every detail of arrangements. No possible want of the delegates was unprovided for, and there was a quiet elegance about it all that will be of widespread, salutary influence. We heartily congratulate all persons who contributed in any way to make the entire affair so eminently successful, and we assure them, as their reward, that the Luther League of America holds a higher place than ever in the Church's confidence and regard.

First Session

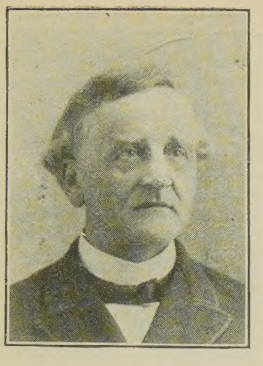
The Third National Convention of the Luther League of America was called to order by President Eilert on Tuesday, October 18, 1898, at 2 o'clock p.m., in the Holy Trinity Church of New York City.

The opening service was rendered according to the programme. An organ prelude was followed by the singing of the hymn "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty." Then the Rev. C. Armand Miller, pastor of Holy Trinity, led in the responsive, reading the Thirty-third Psalm; Rev. M. W. Hamma, D.D., president of the General Synod, offered prayer, and Rev. E. F. Mohldenke, D.D., president of the General Council, read the Scripture lesson.

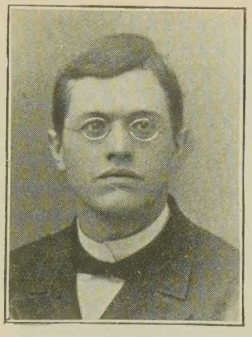
After the singing of another hymn, "My Faith Looks Up to Thee," the president delivered the opening address.

He referred to the beginning of the Luther League in New York City ten years ago and how the young Lutherans of that city had been privileged to meet together to know one another better and to help make their church recognized in the community. How the movement had spread through the country, and that now young and old have developed a spirit of assertion, and instead of timidity and withdrawal the work of the Lutheran Church is being zealously advocated in all directions. He said, further, in the past two years, or since our Convention at Chicago, in 1896, great progress had been made and the movement is growing stronger every day.

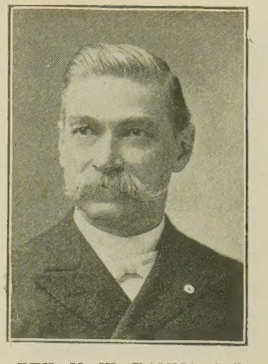
Three new State Leagues have been organized, viz: the Luther League of Nebraska, Luther League of South Dakota and the third within the past few weeks, the Luther League of Minnesota. In many States where the movement was unknown a beginning has been made; in fact, we ha e already extended our work across the borders,



REV. E. F. MOLDENKE, D.D.
Pres. General Council



REV. C. ARMAND MILLER
Pastor Holy Trinity



REV. M. W. HAMMA, D.D.
Pres. General Synod

Conducting the opening devotional services

for Leagues are in existence in Canada and are represented here to-day.

But, while this continued growth is very satisfactory and encouraging, it is regretted that the lack of definite information makes it impossible to render a complete report of the numerical strength of the Luther League or to give a summary of the work that is being done.

The Literary Secretary will also at the proper time bring to your notice the work done in the line of the Luther League Reading Course. While this is encouraging it is not as satisfactory as might be expected, still our Lutheran young people are showing a decided interest in the reading of Lutheran literature, which it is hoped will continue to develop. The Luther League Topics will be advocated at one of our sessions by one who has assisted the Literary Secretary in the preparation of them, and who is competent to speak about them. With a clearer knowledge of the plan and scope of the Topics I hope a larger interest in their use will be shown.

Of THE LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW I need say but little, as the business manager and others connected with its publication will bring it to your notice in a forceful manner during the Convention. I speak through the columns of the REVIEW to all Leaguers every month, and I hope what I say may bear fruit to the glory of God.

A report of the Executive Committee by the General Secretary is to be heard at to-morrow morning's session. It will give in a general way an account of the doings of your executive body, but one thing, not a matter of record will not be alluded to, the death of our fellow-member, Frederick T. Huber. In the demise of our brother the Luther League has lost a faithful friend. He was one of those instrumental in the organization of our National League, and his death is the first break in the ranks of the active Luther League workers. While our hearts are bowed in sorrow at the loss we have sustained we sorrow not as those who have no hope, for, though the parting was bitter, we can safely leave our friend in the loving keeping of that Saviour Whom he loved and in Whom he died. Resolutions in memory of our brother will no doubt be presented at this meeting for your adoption.

Another matter not of official record, and to which I deem it my duty to call attention, is the large and representative number of our young men who enlisted in the defense of our country in the recent war with Spain. Our records show that Luther Leaguers were among those at all the prominent points in the war, including Santiago, Porto Rico and Manila. Although the loss in battle was small, one of our boys was among the first to fall. In the memory of George L. Immen our League mourns a hero who was an example of a true American and a Christian soldier.

The keynote of this Convention is the third "L" of the three outlined before viz.: Loyalty, Literature and Labor. This gathering is to emphasize Labor, or work, and for that porpose the general topics of Education, Deaconess' work and Missions are to be brought to your attention.

As Lutherans we are aware of the value of Faith, not works; but then again we also value the works which are impelled by faith for faith without works is nothing.

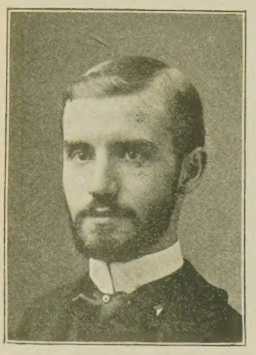
The work here advocated must have as a foundation Faith, and be the product of and love for our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The treasurer, Mr. Cornelius Eckhardt, then rendered his report.

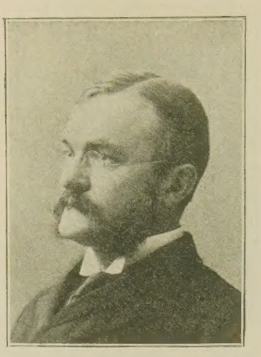
1896.			
OCT. 31.	*To Balance on Hand.*		$31.59
	RECEIPTS.		
	Donations and collections..	$329.86	
	Proceeds from sale of bonds, as per bond book.....	320.00	
	Dues, as per account.....	213.00	
	Luther League Review, for bond No. 29, paid and cancelled.....	10.00	
	Sale of programes, Chicago Convention.....	66.26	839.12
			$870 71
	DISBURSEMENTS.		
	Donations to Review.....	$143.50	
	Transportation.....	36.50	
	Stationery and printing.....	162.35	
	Bond account, for bond No. 29, paid and cancelled.....	10.00	
	Luther League Review, proceeds from sale of bonds.	330.00	
	Do. donations subject to approval.	100.00	
	War Tax. stamps for checks.	.70	
	Interest account for interest at 6 per cent. on bonds to February 1, 1898.....	21.18	
	Postage account, stamps from October, 1895, to date	15.72	824.95
	Balance on hand..... ..		$45.76

Respectfully submitted,
CORNELIUS ECKHARDT, Treasurer.

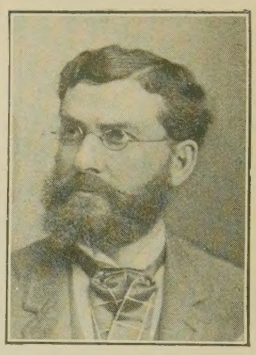
This report was received and referred to an Auditing Committee, consisting of Messrs. Stewart A. Shimer of Pennsylvania, C. G. Grauer of New York, and Charles F. Gutbrod of Connecticut.



GEORGE D. BOSCHEN



HON. CHAS. A. SCHIEREN
Delivering the greetings and response



FRANK A. HARTRANFT, ESQ

Then followed the reports of State presidents, namely :

New York State, J. F. Dinkey; Pennsylvania, Wm. C. Stoever; New Jersey, Rev. E. B. Killinger; Ohio, Rev. F. Richards, D.D.; for the President, Rev. E. K. Bell, D.D; Nebraska, Rev. L. M. Kuhns; Minnesota, Prof. E. G. Lund, and District League of Central Connecticut, Christian F. Gutbrod.

After the singing of the hymn, " Again as Evening Shadows Fall," three addresses on the subject of " Education " were delivered, as follows:

By Rev. E. J. Wolf, D.D., of Gettysburg, on " The Education of the Popular Conscience ; "

By Rev. H. E. Jacobs, D.D., of Philadelphia, on " The Educational Idea as Developed by the Lutheran Church ; " and

By Rev. E. G. Lund, of Minneapolis, on " Education as Related to the Church Work."

The closing hymn was then sung, prayer offered, and the benediction pronounced by Rev. J. F. W. Kitzmeyer of Bethany Church, New York City.

Second Session

The exercises of Tuesday evening in Holy Trinity Church were opened with an organ prelude by Mr. Herman Rannefeldt, organist Grace Lutheran Church, followed by a hymn, " Now Thank We All Our God."

Rev. J. B. Fox, Ph.D., of Newberry, S. C., had charge of the devotional services, consisting of the regular vesper services.

The addresses of welcome were as follows: Rev. C. Armand Miller on behalf of Holy Trinity Church; Mr. George D. Boschen for the Luther Leagues of New York and Brooklyn, and Hon. Charles A. Schieren for the Lutherans of Greater New York.

President Eilert responded briefly, saying as a New Yorker he felt greatly embarrassed to respond to the greetings. It struck him as being very much like a host calling upon one of his own family to respond for the hospitality he had extended to his guests. Officially, however, he thanked the speakers, but called upon Mr. Hartranft of Philadelphia to respond more generally for the Executive Committee and the Luther League of America.

Mr. Hartranft said in part :

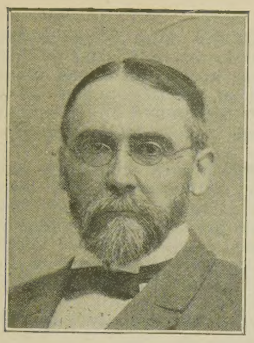
For some reason best known to those who have made the selection, I have been chosen to respond to these warm words of welcome so kindly and heartily extended to us. I am expected to speak more especially on behalf of the Executive Committee, and yet, as this committee represents the entire organization in its composite form, I have the task of offering the response of the entire membership of our organization.

It is indeed difficult to express in words the pleasure it affords us to be present in this the greatest city of our country, and yet we confess that we have come to this great city with great expectations, and we feel confident that we shall not go away disappointed. What has already been said and offered to us certainly justifies us in expecting a feast of good things at your hands during the remaining sessions of this Convention. I therefore return our most hearty thanks for your kindly welcome, and with you rejoice to-night in being present and forming a part of the third Convention of the Luther League of America. As the two former meetings of this body have made their place bright in the history of our church, we trust that this one may add an additional star in the firmament of its glory.

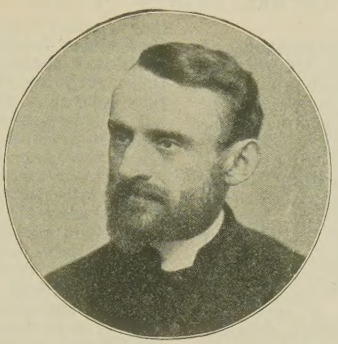
The Luther League of America has just grounds to rejoice to-night in what it has accomplished thus far. Its main purpose in its institution was, and through the years that may have passed has continued to be, that of loyalty to the church, and that must in the future continue to be its primary object. We have cause therefore to-night to rejoice in the fact that the Luther League has established itself as one of the necessary parts of the working force of our church We rejoice to-night in the fact that, while it has reached this stage of progress, it has been guided and directed by wise and judicious management.

We rejoice with you to-night in the progress that our church has been making everywhere, and especially in this city of yours We bid you God-speed in the work and hope that we may carry away with us the same spirit, and that it may show itself in renewed missionary work in our own localities.

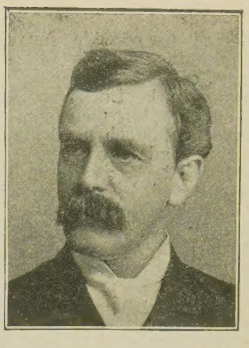
(*Continued on page* 11.)



REV. E. J. WOLF, D.D.



REV. H. E. JACOBS, D.D., LL.D.



REV. E. G. LUND

"Education"

The Education of the Public Conscience

BY REV. E. J. WOLF, D.D.

He deprecated the idea that education was thought of as a matter for individuals only, for boys and girls. The community is to be educated, the public, the body politic. General reform must come through the corporate conscience, and this is neither self-illuminating nor self-acting. It requires education, training, guidance. The individual conscience is so largely dependent on education that some regard it as purely a matter of education. What is true of the individual is true of the community.

Man is a social being. We are one body, one family, sharing a common honor or dishonor, a common pride or shame, a common responsibility. When one suffers all suffer, and, as a rule, deserve to suffer.

There is no power on earth like that of an aroused public conscience. William Evarts once remarked at a New York political convention: "We must pander somewhat to the moral element." There is nothing which politicians fear so much as a fearless, intelligent righteousness, seeking no aims but those of God.

The bottle disappeared from the harvest-field and the open bar from the ordination of ministers, not by State law but by the behest of the public conscience. This organ must be taught not only to act but to act rightly. The moral sense may be perverted by an uncertain sound from the pulpit, by either false teaching or a false emphasis on true teaching. There is no better stimulus for the popular conscience than a sound religious faith. Lutheran Iceland has one policeman, and he has no occupation. Belief of divine truth creates moral convictions. Faith inspires and sustains duty. It is the undisputed testimony of history that with the decline of a sturdy religious faith goes popular integrity and public morality. When religion, toward the close of the last century, was almost extinct in the highest and lowest classes of English society, the aristocracy was steeped in profligacy and morality disappeared from the high and the low alike.

The organic relations of society must come to be better appreciated, and the reciprocal obligations thus entailed. The significance of the plural number must be ground into men's consciences. Of a few things I am permitted to speak as *mine*, of thousands I must say *ours*. And my obligations respecting the latter are as sacred and as imperative as they are to the former. Hence I must have a conscientious concern for whatever pertains to the public—its health, its education, its morals. There is no getting away from it—you are your brother's keeper, the keeper of your neighbor, of your neighborhood. You are responsible for its moral condition. You have a reprehensible complicity in most of the vice and crime which surround you. And this responsibility for public conditions rises with men's position, wealth or culture, leaving to public men, magistrates, journalists, capitalists a tremendous account to render.

The Educational Idea as Developed by the Lutheran Church

BY REV. H. E. JACOBS, D D., LL.D.

The Saxon peasantry, undeterred by poverty, gave their gifted boy the best training Germany afforded. All honor to Hans Luther and his wife, Margaretta Zeigler. In their inflexible purpose is rooted Modern Civilization. We can recall that bright boy Martin, whose wonderful precocity was not that, however, of the fruit that ripens prematurely. At 20 he was the author of a standard Greek grammar.

At the University of Wittenberg the XCV. Theses were published, the Bible translated, the Catechism written, the hymns of the Church composed and the Service of the Church revised. Here the Augsburg Confession was begun. At Upsala, Petri taught Sweden what he learned there, and at Cambridge and Oxford the seeds carried from Wittenberg lodged and grew and bore harvest. Lutheranism was everywhere the harbinger of an educational revival. As it is the schools that support the Church, Luther argued that the latter must see that Christian schools be well supported. Halle University was the spring from whence the entire foreign missionary work of the Protestant churches of to-day issued. The Lutheran Church of America in its present organized form, doctrine, government and worship is largely an outgrowth of the forces centered at Halle one and one-half centuries ago. Why did the Lutheran Church lose the Swedish churches in Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey? Because they

neglected to provide for the perpetuation of the ministry on this soil and the training of laymen of wide education and thorough indoctrination in the Lutheran faith. They were without educated laymen who could command influence in Church or State. Another communion that had provisioned for an education in the English language, and according to the necessities of this land, therefore absorbed them. No church is established in a country where it depends on a foreign country for its ministry and the higher education of its laity.

Muhlenberg began the work of establishing schools as well as building churches. In 1749 the ground was purchased for a seminary, whose foundation was, however, long delayed. He was compelled to send his sons to Germany to be educated, but the leaders of the next generation received their training in the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia College, New York. A torpor with respect to education stole gradually over the Church. But later with the foundation of the institutions at Gettysburg, those of the Ohio Synod at Columbus, and the Seminary of the South Carolina Synod, a new era began. The General Synod is practically the expansion of Gettysburg.

The Missourians entered this country as a vast educational movement, and when only a handful of people began their college. The Norwegians and Swedes of the nineteenth century are a force in American Church life that the Swedes of former centuries were not, solely by their appreciation of the necessity for well equipped educational institutions. Whichever way we turn it's the same situation. What would the Presbyterians in the United States be without the men trained at Princeton, and the institutions that have developed from it? The strength of a denomination lies in the strength of its higher educational institutions; its weaknesses are also traceable to defects in these centers. We must here never be cramped, behind the age, but must rise to the highest standards and ideals, and continually expand their influence.

Our people sometimes think our appeals are excessive, but note the theological school of a denomination near here, which has an endowment of $3,000,000, and our earnestness will be excused. The Lutheran clergy and laity should have every advantage education can give them and be up to all other denominations.

Statistics show the disproportion our Church has invested in her educational institutions. Who will deny them the possibility and need of their more generous treatment?

Education as Related to Church Work

BY REV. E. G. LUND

What business have we, as a Luther League Convention, to discuss the subject of education? Is not this a matter for synodical veterans only? Not at all.

For education and the Luther League are brought together by the simple fact that they are both for the young.

Let me confine the discussion of our subject to one of the main objects for which the Luther League has originated—namely, to qualify our young people for greater activity in the Church.

But is it so very necessary to be active for the Church? Is it not enough to insist upon the doctrine that we are justified by faith alone, without insisting so much that faith is never alone? No!

And is it so very necessary that young people should work for the Church, and should qualify themselves for this work? But when is the beginning to be made if not in youth? What they work for they are apt to love, and what they love they are not so apt to forsake. May not this be our answer to the sad and frequent question: "How are we to keep our young people in the Church?"

That our young people are catechetically and scripturally trained for confirmation is in itself an indispensable preparation for the truest work in the Church. But this preparation may end in itself if it be not pushed toward action. What is learned by the head must be manifested by the hand. "If any man will *do* His will, he shall know of the doctrine."

But is it necessary to be specially qualified for Church work?

And yet, take one or two items of such work. Teaching in the Sunday school is one of them. Surely some qualification is needed for that, otherwise we have the blind leading the blind, with the ditch as a terminus. Take a certain phase of every Christian's mission work—namely, that of seeking to bring non-churchgoers to the sanctuary. Is any one thoroughly qualified for that? If so, then has he been qualified for it by an experience and education that enable him to approach those who stand on the higher as well as the lower rounds of intelligence and culture. Take another phase. Now and then we meet with intelligent skeptics in workshop, in counting-room, in society. They are ready to talk on religious subjects. Their motive, indeed, is not always the best; but they will talk. May it not happen that in this case we have a work to do for the Church, not only in defending it, but in convincing the gainsayers? Are we qualified to give these skeptics not a moony sentiment or one-legged opinion, but a solid, heartfelt, intelligent reason for the faith that is in us?

Ours is a popular form of church government. This involves special duties and privileges—such, for instance, as to vote on the call of a pastor, to act as a delegate to synod, to serve in the Church Council or on a Board of College Trustees. It involves action on matters that reach out beyond our individual parish—out to all the tremendously important affairs of education, missions and Church organization. And shall we who are electors under such a government not be qualified by every attainable means of education for intelligent action? Here we need a laity, as well as a ministry, that is thoroughly qualified to act; a membership that strives for the sunny heights of a broad outlook; men and women of actual progress, and not such as are content with the kind of progress that a squirrel makes in its revolving cage.

The sort of education here needed is not that which is divorced from religion—that sort which, indeed, mounts up to heights little dreamt of before, but which, without a definite religious landing place, projects into empty air like a stairway without a second story.

And yet the higher sort is needed, especially in these days when knowledge is pressing into all the activities of life as the ocean presses into every gulf and inlet and smallest curve along our shore line. Our young people need its developing power as much in the Church as elsewhere.

But do not misunderstand me to say that those of less education neither could nor did

For Special Terms on Way of Salvation for Luther Leagues, apply to the author, 1842 Reta Street, Chicago, Illinois.

do much for the Church. Great blessings have been purchased for the Church with these uncut diamonds. Yet who can fail to see that these same diamonds would have increased in value and effectiveness had they been ground and polished by the artist hand of a higher education?

Undeveloped talent is in no great demand these days. It gets no call to practice at the bar, to preside over a railway corporation or to aim the thirteen-inch guns of the "Oregon," though it does seem to have got a call to aim the guns of the "Christobal Colon." The Lord, who has no use for ignorance or superficiality, expects us to develop our talents. It is as He would have it when the acorn develops into an oak. It is as He would have it when from the tiny infant there is a gradual unfolding of powers which some day shall reach up and weigh the stars. It is as He would have it when we stir up the gifts of God that are in us.

We note such a stirring up through the whole history of the Church. Her greatest movements have been led, her most tremendous battles fought, her sublimest victories won, under God, by men of developed and sanctified intelligence. They brought something with them to this mighty service. They loaded the altar with knowledge and wisdom and culture, and then kindled it with fire from on high. They did not pray that this fire might descend on an empty altar.

The education needed to qualify our young people for the best work in the Church is just the kind that our higher Lutheran schools provide. These put their students into relation with the great facts of science, literature and history. The course of discipline they insist upon gives energy in penetrating to the inner recesses of a subject and in rising to its heights. It causes the young to see that even this material world is too wide, is a source too full of splendid ideas, to be squeezed within the milled circumference of our deified dollars. It trains them to turn knowledge into wisdom. And where can there be activity of the very best without wisdom, insight, wide outlook? At any rate, not in the Church, not in that great institution which has to deal with a thousand problems here and hereafter, which has a missionary sphere not only among the ignorant, but among the educated, and which, especially in this land and age, has to adjust itself to conditions whose exact duplicate is nowhere found on the pages of history.

An education not positively Christian, however profound, lofty and brilliant, is almost as liable to deaden every active interest in the Church as is the exclusive pursuit of wealth or pleasure. By a well nigh irresistible power it draws the mind and heart toward conceptions and ideals which are antagonistic to that simple faith in Christ from which, as from a perennial fountain, all inspiration to work for the Church proceeds. That this is its sad and frequent effect can be attested by every observant pastor. Not so, however, with the education offered in schools that are truly Lutheran. That which they offer is a positively Christian education, and one that makes the student love and labor for his Church because it brings before him her inspiring principles and history, because it quickens him with the life that flows from a well-directed study of the everlasting Word, because it unites him to the Son of God as the great central motive power of all true human activity, because it holds before him, not an empty but an energizing ideal, because it makes him hitch his wagon not to a star but to the Maker of the star.

(*Continued from page* 8.)

While it is true that we meet to renew old friendships, to make new ones and to encourage each other in the work to which we have set our hands, we have not gathered merely for the purpose of social enjoyment, as the cardinal principle of the first convention was that of loyalty to the church, and that of the second the literature of our church; so your Executive Committee has fixed as the cardinal principle of this Convention that of labor, or working for the church, and thus, in setting to the duty that is set before us, these warm words of welcome greatly lighten the burden and assist us in approaching the task with greater zeal and enthusiasm.

May the great Head of the church so guide and direct our sessions that we shall be able at the close of the Convention to say to New York that we have greatly enjoyed your hospitality, and that New York may be able to say to us that it was good for them that we were here.

The session was then closed with the singing of "I Love Thy Zion, Lord."

Reception and Social Hour

Immediately following the regular session a reception and social hour was given to all delegates and friends in the lecture room of the church. Here the Ladies' Auxiliary Committee made every one feel at home and gave all an opportunity to meet and greet one another. Light refreshments were served and a very pleasant hour was spent by all.

Third Session

The Wednesday morning session was opened at 10 o'clock by Vice-President Dinkey in the absence of the president, the opening service being followed according to the programme, and prayer being offered and the Scripture lesson read by Rev. G. C. F. Haas.

A report of the Executive Committee by M. C. Olson, general secretary, was then read.

In this it was stated that for the purpose of keeping in closer touch with each other and to stimulate interest in the work, the secretary recommends and urges that all Leagues and Societies connected with the Luther League of America be requested to make quarterly reports to the General Secretary, commencing January 1, 1899 The first of such reports to state when the society was organized, how many members, male and female, and the class of meetings held. Subsequent reports to contain notices of increase or decrease in membership, changes affecting officers and committees and other items of interest.

The Literature Committee reported through Rev. C. L. Fry, literary secretary; and the World's Luther League Committee, Rev. E. G. Lund, chairman, reported progress and asked that time be allowed to present the report later in the convention, which was, on motion, granted, and Rev. Anderson was substituted on the committee for Rev. Hanson, absent, and Rev. C. C. Manz for Rev. E. Meister, also absent.

The report of the Publication Committee

was presented by Mr. C. Eckhardt, business manager of THE LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW.

An amendment to the constitution abolishing the offices of recording secretary and assistant recording secretary and providing for an assistant general secretary and a statistical secretary was then presented and laid over until the following day, according to the provisions of the article on amendments.

It was then moved by Mr. E. A. Miller that the chair appoint a committee of five as a Committee on Nominations, to report at the morning session on Thursday. This was carried, and the president appointed Messrs. E. A. Miller of Pennsylvania, J. F. Dinkey of New York, Rev. E. K. Bell, D.D., of Ohio, Rev. E. B. Killinger of New Jersey, Rev. L. M. Kuhns of Nebraska.

Rev. L. M. Kuhns moved that a committee of five be appointed as a Committee on Resolutions, Letters and Papers, to whom all such matters shall be referred. This was carried, and Rev. G. A. Bierdeman of New York, Leander Trautman of Pennsylvania, Rev. F. Richards, D.D., of Ohio, Louis Von Gilluwe of New Jersey, and Rev. F. E. Jensen of Minnesota were appointed.

After the singing of a hymn upon the programme, the general topic of Luther League activity was taken up and papers were read by Rev. W. L. Hunton on "The Reading Course," and by Rev. S. G. Weiskotten on "THE LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW."

"The Reading Course"

"Of making many books there is no end" is as true of Lutheran books to-day as it was of general literature in the days of Solomon.

Beginning with our "Little Bible" we have a catalogue of literature before which we proudly prefix the label "Lutheran." It embraces the best in history, doctrine, ethics, biography and whatever pertains to religious thinking and Christian living.

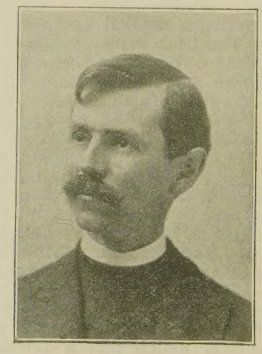
It is a heritage of letters to which young Lutherans point with commendable pride. For is it not the expression of the Church's life? The hills are full of marble before the world blooms with statues. The nations rise and achieve before the historian tells their story. The church which is without literature is without life. If books, as has been well said, are the registration of declared attainments, then we can confidently say that Lutheranism has outstripped every form of faith in spiritual achievement.

"There is no past, so long as books shall live." The Church in all of her activities and with all of her forces is at the command of every intelligent young Lutheran. It was a different thing for a Greek that he lived after Plato instead of before. England is a new empire for a child to be born in since Shakespeare gathered the centuries and told the story of humanity up to his time. The Church presents larger spheres and greater possibilities for young Christians since Luther lived and thought and Lutheran theologians have spoken and written.

But the thought which it is most important to impress at this time is that men and women who take nothing from books are choosing to live in the awful darkness of that state from which writings and books have rescued us.

In this day of books and periodicals the Luther League does not need to tell young Lutherans to read. Who does not read? But he who goes unaided into the gloomy forest of modern literature will, we fear, go astray, and find a harder task to keep the direct path, and meet with worse panthers, leaner wolves, and the gateway to a deeper hell than did Dante. Literary dissipation, like physical intoxication, can only end in degeneracy. *What* to read is the important question for young Lutherans.

Wholesome literature is more than medicine. "Good books are the food of mind and soul." No one can taste of all the good and wholesome food for the body. Neither can we expect mentally to assimilate or spiritually to digest the bountiful supplies of Lutheran literary food which feast our eyes. We therefore wisely accept the advice and follow the directions of the Luther League and gather the most luscious and nourishing fruit to be found in our Luther-



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an gardens. We believe that a few choice books are more profitable than many of doubtful worth. It is with books as with men—a very small number play a very great part.

Much valuable effort, and none too much, has been directed toward setting these books before the people and asking them to read. It is only right that some of this effort should now be directed toward leading our young Lutherans so to read as to make their use of books a source of permanent benefit.

No book can be so good as to be profitable when negligently read. To render our reading vital and valuable some plan should be devised which will insure not merely the scanning of the pages but the faithful and conscientious study of the thought.

"Notes and Queries," adopted with so much success in the Harvard and Boston Athenæum libraries, might prove very helpful. They could be exchanged with other members of the local League, or a system of district interchange might be devised, the aim being to secure to the reader that deep insight into the thought which comes from questioning it, and that firm grasp of the truths which is necessary for him who would communicate it.

Special courses covering particular departments of religious thought would prove profitable. Volumes supplementary to the regular

reading courses should also be recommended for the benefit of those who have found in the prescribed books incentive to further research.

But we have been ridiculed for giving a certificate for reading *six* books! Is it worth anything? No; it is absolutely worthless if it was your incentive and ends your literary excursion. But if it is a seal upon a blessed habit of reading acquired and is a written guarantee that the love of Lutheran literature is formed, then it is a certificate valued far above Government bonds. Our critics should remember that it does not take much literary research to reveal to the average young Lutheran his own ignorance. That is a profitable revelation which may lead him to learn modestly simply and well.

"A drop of ink makes millions think."

Luther tested the metal of this weapon, for—

"At Wartburg still the ink they show
Which Luther at the devil threw.
In these last days we've learned to know
He fought more wisely than he knew.

"For this far more than flaming tongue
Filled popes and devils with affright;
The ink-stand by the printer flung
Has put the Prince of Hell to flight."

The spiritual sons and daughters of the hero of the Wartburg who have assumed his name and

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wear his coat of arms cannot do better than faithfully to use the literature which made popes tremble and moved all Europe, and which is destined to change the nations of the earth into the kingdoms of our God.

The Luther League Review

One of the strong points in our Lutheran methods of Church work is the catechetical class. It is wonderful how great an impression an earnest pastor can make on the young people who thus come under his instruction. After they have been confirmed it is of the highest importance to continue that impression. One of the means to that end is the Church paper. Among these the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW is one of the most important. It is the representative paper of the young people. In its present form and contents it is receiving the highest unsolicited encomiums from every quarter. Hence its subscription list ought to increase very rapidly.

It is surprising that while the Lutheran Church boasts of being born in a university, her Church members are far behind those of other denominations in subscribing for and reading the Church papers. The young people's societies of other denominations far outstrip our own League in their support of the respective papers published on behalf of their work.

Considering the fact that the subscription price of the REVIEW is so small, the field so large, the work so pressing, the need of such a publication as the REVIEW so evident, the REVIEW so excellently edited, every League member ought to subscribe for and read the paper.

Increase the subscription list and the editors will be able to make still further improvements which they have long contemplated, and which, we are sure, will be appreciated by every reader.

Then ensued some discussion about THE LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW and the raising of money for its support, after which it was, on motion, decided that the discussion of the REVIEW matter be made the first business of the afternoon session, including in that the address of Rev. G. H. Schnur, Jr., on "The Luther League Topics."

The roll call at this time showed 307 in attendance.

After the singing of the hymn, "Jesus I Love Thy Charming Name," and prayer and benediction by Rev. G. U. Wenner, D.D., this session adjourned.

Fourth Session

The Wednesday afternoon session was opened at 2 o'clock by an organ prelude, the singing of a hymn, and by the reading of the psalm and prayer by Rev. J. B. Reimensnyder, D.D., and the reading of the Scripture lesson by Rev. J. A. Weyl.

The matter of the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW was taken up as the special business for the hour, and on motion of Rev. S. G. Weiskotten, as amended by Mr. E. A. Miller, the following action was taken:

Resolved, That this Convention request each Central League to appoint as soon as possible a committee to visit each society and present the matter of the debt due on THE LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW account, as well as the matter of an increased subscription.

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be instructed to carry out the above resolution.

At 2.30 p.m. this discussion was discontinued for the present to hear the presentation of the subject of "Deaconess Work," by Rev. A. H. Studebaker, D.D., of Baltimore. This paper was followed by remarks by Rev. H. Douglas Spaeth of Easton, Pa., and Rev. F. P. Manhart, D.D., pastor of the Baltimore Mother House. Parts of Dr. Studebaker's and Rev. Spaeth's addresses are given on the next three pages.

At 4.10 p.m. the paper of Rev. G. H. Schnur, Jr., on "The Luther League Topics" was read. (See page 16.)

At the conclusion of this paper, on motion of Rev. L. M. Kuhns, it was resolved that the Luther League Topics as outlined

(*Continued on page* 18.)

The Deaconess Cause

Deaconess Work

BY REV. A. H. STUDEBAKER, D.D.

The "woman question," which some of our fathers and forefathers deemed definitely and forever settled, does not *stay* settled. It still claims consideration. There is a revolt against the past, with apprehensions of larger and more certain truth still vague and tentative.

The old idea was that the place and work of woman was exclusively in the home, with a certain undefined and undetermined latitude in unostentatious services in the Church and in private charities. Just what the new view is cannot be put in a sentence or two. Some would have her activity end with and for those of her own sex. And from these on and up (or down) to those who boldly declare for her complete and absolute equality with man in Church and State there are a multitude of opinions, overlapping, blending, merging, commingling. Probably the most popular to-day would confer upon woman all civil rights except the ballot, and all religious privileges except the pastorate of a church.

We are not, as Lutherans, greatly distressed about these things. Our Church economy saves us from many upheavals and new births that

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seem to come with a peculiar periodicity to those who do not cling to the Holy Scriptures and their teachings with the tenacity ever characteristic of the Church of the Reformation.

So it is not strange—indeed, it was just what was to have been expected—that a Lutheran pastor, George Henry Theodore Fliedner, should have led in the revival of the ancient apostolic office of Deaconess, thereby restoring to the Church an arm of power which for long centuries had been unused. This was at Kaiserswerth on the Rhine, in the year 1836, just sixty-two years ago.

The growth of this work has been little short of phenomenal, for the modest summer house of the parsonage garden, where he lodged his first applicant, has grown into scores of well equipped Mother houses, sheltering some twelve thousand Deaconesses, who work in over three thousand fields of labor.

What is a Deaconess? The definition of the General Synod Board is, "An unmarried woman or widow of approved fitness or training, who shall serve Christ and the Church according to the general principles of the female diaconate, especially as they have been developed during the past sixty years, with such modifications as the wants of the Church in this country require."

Who may be candidates for this office? "Only unmarried women or widows between the ages of eighteen and forty, who are members of an Evangelical Lutheran Church, and who possess the required physical, intellectual and moral qualifications." This refers to applicants for admission to the Mother House at Baltimore, though applicable, substantially, to all Lutheran Mother houses.

Where is the New Testament authority for the female diaconate? Principally in Romans 16:1. 2. "I commend unto you Phebe, our sister, which is a servant (diakanon, deaconess) of the Church which is at Cenchrea: That ye receive her in whatsoever business she hath need of you; for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself, also." The argument from this passage rests, usually, upon the use and meaning of the word "diakanon," but to me quite as much on its close connection with "tas ekklasias." the Church—the inference of official business in which Phebe was engaged being unavoidable. Just the instant we understand that she was a servant of *the Church*, an official relation is the only one that satisfies us. Paul refers to matters in which she might need the help of *the Church at Rome*. It is hardly probable that he would demand assistance of it, as an organization, in business of a private nature.

Dr. H. E. Jacobs points out, in his "Study on the Female Diaconate of the New Testament," that there is found, in 1 Timothy 3:11. an enumeration of the requirements that are to be made of Deaconesses.

Originally the Deacons were all men. But, with the development of the Church there came to be phases of its work which only women could do, and then the scope of the diaconate was so enlarged as to admit of the services of godly and devoted women, who served in the field made possible by the special requirements of their sex.

As early as 112 A.D., Pliny, an exact and reliable observer, whose testimony is unimpeachable, reports the existence of Deaconesses in the immediately sub-Apostolic Church. Indeed, two of them were at this time put to death because they refused to disclose the secrets of the Christian service. The identity of the "vidua" and Deaconesses is positively asserted by Epiphanius, and the regulations of the Apostolic Constitutions, many of which refer to it as a long-existing institution, together with the records of the Councils, from whose canons the office looks out at us, make a chain of evidence which cannot be broken. The French Synods of Orange (441) and Epaon (517) abolished the office and it slowly died out in the West; but in the East, where customs as to women almost demanded its retention, it survived until the twelfth century.

But we are not to-day particularly concerned about the causes that led to the lapse of the office; what I want you to feel is that "the historicity of the female diaconate may be asserted with a good degree of assurance."

These Deaconesses have usually been of one of two classes—nursing or teaching, terms which will sufficiently indicate their fields for my purpose at the present time. But parish work, the labors of a Deaconess in a congregation, is the very flower of a female diaconate. "By parish Deaconess work we understand all works of mercy which are performed by Deaconesses who are properly trained and called to serve the young, the sick and the poor, under the direction and for the help of the Ministry

of the Word, to the building up of the Kingdom of God in the field of a local congregation." Wacker says, "The Mother houses fitly designate this as the crown of their labors."

Hitherto the work of educating and training this class of Deaconesses has been done by individuals or societies which were independent of any Church connection or control. In recent years, however, it has had identification with, and official recognition by, different branches of the Church. In the Protestant Episcopal Church the Deaconess is recognized as an officer. In the Methodist Episcopal Church a few years ago Bishop Bowman had the honor to consecrate the first three Deaconesses of that communion, women who were to "minister to the poor, visit the sick, pray with the dying, care for the orphan, seek the wandering, comfort the sorrowing, save the sinning, and, relinquishing all other forms of Christian labors, to devote themselves in a general way to such forms of Christian labors as may be suited to their abilities." And in our own General Synod we now have thirteen Deaconesses and twelve Probationers connected with the Mother House at Baltimore, a house owned and controlled by that synod, and carrying on its work along lines officially sanctioned by that body. So far as I know, this is the only Mother House among the Lutherans thus owned and controlled.

The Deaconess takes no "vow." The only vow a Lutheran knows is that of Holy Baptism. She receives no salary, but a small allowance of pocket money for personal requirements, though the fact is that many of them deny themselves these, and spend *all* in Christian work. She wears a plain garb, sufficiently distinctive to serve as an identification and a protection. And when God, as she believes, calls her elsewhere in His field, she is at liberty to answer that call. Cared for by the Church, and yielding it all the strength and service possible to her, she has its tenderest care in sickness or age.

Now, do the requirements of modern religious work favor or, stronger, demand, the revival of this office?

Judged by the almost phenomenal success which has attended it for the past sixty-two years, I think we are justified in saying that the Church wants the Deaconess. As an organization, it already commands the services of a varied force of workers, and one might wonder just where these would find a field for their talents. But one thing is lamentably true. In our Church work as we find it to-day there is a serious lack. Not a conscientious pastor but feels it. When he has done all he can do, and brought himself to the very verge of physical, and sometimes mental, breakdown, he is profoundly moved, most deeply agitated by the sight and the thought of what is still undone. It has well been called "the work which falls between what must be regarded as the pastor's legitimate work, or the work which it is possible for him to do, and what it is proper to call upon laymen and devoted women to do."

It has to do with bodies, cold, unclothed, unfed, suffering, neglected. It has to do with souls, hungry without the feeling of it, naked without the consciousness of it, dying without the knowledge of it. It has to do with the wandering, the drifting, the tempted, the bewildered, the prodigals, the careless, the indifferent. It has to do with that severance between large numbers of our population and the Church which causes thoughtful men such deep concern; with the absence of home training or the baneful influence of that which is positively bad; with the prevalent lowering of the moral and spiritual tone of the community; with the constant elevation of selfism and materialism which is drawing such a black line around our modern life. All these things, and others which they will suggest, call for the utilization by the Church of every potential agency within its reach.

It is right here that the Deaconess finds her field and her work. Hers is applied Christianity, dynamic religion, a comprehensive obedience to the command, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Her whole life is consecrated to this. She is not harried or harassed by any financial or family or social claims or considerations. She knows nothing, need know nothing, but the service, entire and unreserved, of the blessed Christ. Natural gifts, enlarged and enhanced by careful training, make her unique and invaluable. She comes with the knowledge and ability to solve the problem of reaching the masses by the might of a personal effort and a personal love. Her training in the truths of the Scripture and the doctrines of the Church equips her to make her entrance into a godless home, rich or poor—for she knows no distinction—the lighting of a new light for eternity. Her very presence is a protest against the sordid earthiness which invests so many lives, and her deeds of mercy endear her to hearts out of which well nigh every human sentiment has fled.

REV. A. DOUGLAS SPAETH

Yes; the Church wants the Deaconess. The influence of woman has ever been a potent factor in its development. Her competency is no longer questioned. Her ability needs no longer to be tested. Woman is a mighty force for Christ, and here, in the female diaconate, is a God-authorized, God-instituted, God-blessed field for the exercise of her varied and exceptional talents.

The live, growing Church to-day is expansive. It touches life and living at more points than ever before. In contraction it sees dwarfing and death. Therefore, since it has within itself the workers fitted for the work that presses, it should use them freely and thankfully. Of all things certain this is one—God will never save the world without a large use of women. One of them will do a given task in the religious field, and do it well, after a dozen men have given up in discouragement or defeat.

Yes, I say again, the Church wants the Deaconess. It believes in her spiritual clear-sightedness, her deep moral convictions, her courageous fidelity to duty, and her unselfish and consuming love. And when it fails to use this force, it is impoverishing its treasury, weakening its influence, and wasting much valuable material.

On the other side, the world wants the Deaconess. She is something for which its weary, burdened, aching heart ever cries out. If the Church has work to do, and has been commissioned for its performance, it is helpful and hopeful to know that those in whose behalf it is to be undertaken are not always unconscious of their need, nor insensible to efforts for its relief. A Deaconess is so much more than a trained nurse, so much more than an ordinary instructor. There are trained nurses in plenty and teachers by the thousand. But the world wants more than these. It wants the gracious, loving touch made possible by a heart that loves it, a sympathy with distress and sorrow, of which the world is *so* full, that will do more than a ton of medicine or a library of knowledge.

Particularly in our large cities, the homes of the Socialist, the Communist, and the Anarchist, more and more becoming the centers of our population, confused and congested, from which the wealthy flee at the approach of the warehouse and the tenement, and where opulence relieves such conscience as it has by impersonal alms, is class pride intensified after it has been developed, and the call for a personal contact loud and commanding. Well has it been said that "without a full diaconate, male and female, identified in form as well as in fact with the Church, we can hardly hope to retain our poor, born within our own pale, and much less gather from the world its down-trodden millions, who languish for Good Samaritans to come on their way; and wanting the poor, we shall want a full Church, and be without a full representation of Christ Himself with us always."

Good people all! the world cares little to-day for our masterly controversies and our intense dogmatism, but what it is waiting and sighing for is the sweet, the self-forgetting, the all-compelling ministry of godly, loving women.

Do not misunderstand me. I would not minimize the work of nursing Deaconesses. Did I so, thousands of voices from the hospitals and sickrooms, the battlefields and the leper settlements of the world, the houses for the poor and the orphaned, the hospices and prisons, the insane asylums, the asylums for epileptics and idiots and Magdalens, would cry me down for very shame! The help and comfort and solace and gentle ministrations of these self-denying angels of mercy no human tongue can tell. They are known only to God Himself. Nor would I speak in slightest derogation of the invaluable work of the teaching Deaconess. That, too, is beyond all praise.

But I would magnify the field and the task of the parish Deaconess, organically connected with the Church, consecrated by its authority, and working under the immediate direction and supervision of a pastor. This will be to bring into our modern Church life the method of the Apostles' day, wisely adapted in its features (for it is not an inflexible institution) to our time, our people and our requirements. And the remarkable success which has attended at least one attempt in this direction is full of suggestion and promise.

I congratulate the Church upon the revival of this office! I rejoice in its restoration to ancient place and power in the congregation! And I hold it up before all our pious young women as entirely worthy of them if they are at all worthy of it!

How Will We Get Deaconesses?

BY REV. A. DOUGLAS SPAETH

In the eloquent address just delivered by Dr. Studebaker we have heard that the Church wants and needs deaconesses. This suggests at once another practical question, a question which I purpose to make the subject of this address: How will the Church get deaconesses?

It is a question which ought to appeal strongly to many of our young women, and it ought to be answered not merely by a general patronage of the deaconess cause, but by a personal consecration to the work. The first deaconesses of the mother house in Philadelphia (the Mary J. Drexel Home) come from Iserlohe, Germany. The work of recruiting for the office in American congregations began at once but proceeded slowly. In spite of the fact that deaconesses are so urgently needed it is a hard work to get them.

As in the office of the ministry, so in the office of deaconesses the call is for the very best material. We should get deaconesses from among women of culture, refinement and education; for the deaconess is much more than the trained nurse—she is the disciple of Jesus Christ, and she needs perfect tact and infinite patience and the constraining love of Christ to make her successful in her calling.

And we can get such deaconesses only by direct, personal appeal. We pastors know that many good and noble women are not doing what they know they can, and what they feel they ought, to do, simply because they have no mission. No true, healthy, energetic woman can be satisfied with the spasmodic dilettant charity that characterizes so much of the present women's work in the Church. She wants and she needs a mission, a life calling, to which she can devote all her energies and abilities, in which she can feel the happiness that comes to all who know that they are performing a work whose minutest details and duties they thoroughly understand and faithfully execute.

It is to such women that we would appeal. To them we would say: You are dissatisfied with a life that seems lacking in purpose? You feel that you are wasting your energies? You long for a vocation, a great and noble life work? Why not be a deaconess! There is no nobler calling for a woman than that. It means self-sacrifice, yes; but it means also great pleasures and lasting joys. For the Lutheran deaconess is not a nun who from disappointment with life forsakes the world, to fast and roll her beads in a convent; but she is always a follower in the footsteps of that blessed Master who came into the world to share its griefs and joys and to alleviate its pain. For her, too, Christ prayed: not that she should be taken out of the world, but that she should be kept from evil (John 17:15), and kept from evil though in an evil world, so that she might do good in and to the evil that surrounds her.

The Master calls: "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" There are some here to-day that might well answer: "Here am I; send me" (Is. 6:8).

Luther League Topics

BY REV. G. H. SCHNUR, JR.

At the foundation of all effective Christian work lies the study of God's Word. The man that attempts to work without any previous preparation builds on the sand and his work is destined to failure. The right sort of Christian work needs that preparation found in systematic and devotional study of the Bible.

Our Luther League Reading Course, when engaged in faithfully, drives us back to the Bible.

Experience teaches us that any young people's

movement in the Church, to be successful in the highest sense, must insist upon the devotional idea. The higher interests of the soul must be cared for. But if that devotional meeting is a mere prayer and consecration meeting without the honest study of the Word, it will cause a mushroom growth and will fail just as surely as the purely literary or social society must fail. Spiritual growth demands spiritual food, and that is to be found only in the study of the Divine Word.

"To the Word" let our rallying cry be! That is supreme, our guide, our teacher, our life.

I. *What Are the Luther League Topics?*

They have been issued for four years in their present form, a quarterly 16-paged booklet. Each page is devoted to the consideration of one Topic, giving the day and date, the Subject, the Scripture passage, and the development of the Theme.

During 1895 the "Gospels for the Day" formed the Topics. In 1896 they were based on a series of lessons from the historical books of the Old Testament. The 1897 series were based on selected passages closely allied to and suggested by the leading thought of the Gospels for the Day. The 1898 series were based on selected passages allied to the leading thought of the Epistles for the Day, and formed a complete year's study of the doctrines of the Church.

II. *What Are Their Leading Characteristics?*

Their selection is not an easy task. The themes must follow the church year and form a connected line of thought and systematic course of study. The Scripture passages must plainly teach the themes as the central leading thought.

The Topics are churchly. In a Church whose history takes us back to that wonderful contest between the Monk of Wittenberg and the all but supreme power of the Papal Chair, whose forms and lexionaries reach back into the early and purer ages of the Primitive Church, whose art, architecture and altars, though but externals and adiaphora, reflect the type of doctrine believed and taught—in such a church the Topics must of necessity follow churchly lines; and they do.

The Topics are helpful. The writers of these comments aim to make them first Scriptural, the plain exposition of what the Bible teaches on the given theme.

The Topics are suggestive. While helpful, the development is not complete or exhaustive. Almost every statement has been followed by one or more Scripture proof passages. Many side lines of thought and illustrative application have been barely suggested.

III. *Why Should We Use the Topics?*

The chief aim of the right sort of a Young People's Society is to train, instruct and develop the young members of the churches. The society must therefore not neglect the instructive side to be secured in the study of history and doctrine. But the devotional idea must be kept supreme. The Word must be prayerfully studied in order that the spiritual life may grow. We should use the topics:

1. First and chiefly because we need a systematic plan of Biblical study. The Word is life to the soul. Neglect its study and you dwarf the spiritual growth and endanger the eternal welfare. The Word is the all-inclusive Means of Grace. Then make it the leading text-book in every society if you would make your local organization effective and helpful to the Church.

2. We should use the Topics because of the advantage of uniformity. We know that this idea of uniformity has been overdone in some directions in other things. But that there are advantages, both sentimental and practical, arising from using the same series of Scripture passages, subjects and development is evident to all.

3. We should use the Topics because they are our own, prepared and published under the auspices of this body. Ought this reason need argument? We appoint Literature and Publishing committees, we make an investment. How can we expect those committees to do their best work or that investment to pay either in money or lasting benefit to our Luther League of America if we do not use our own literature? Let us patronize ourselves!

4. We should use the Topics because they are *Lutheran*. We are "of the Church, by the Church, for the Church." Naturally, we seek for those things that help to make us better Lutherans. It is a common experience that when men honestly, carefully and conscientiously study the history and doctrines of the Church of the Augsburg Confession, they learn to appreciate more and more the matchless truths of her theology. Our study should be directed along the broad, biblical and catholic lines characteristic of the theology of our fathers. There is nothing narrow or sectarian in Lutheran teaching. So, the Topics have been broad and biblical, yet distinctively and soundly Lutheran. What better reason could we urge, therefore, than that the Topics should find entrance into every Young People's Society in America that stands in connection with the Lutheran Church, because they teach us Lutheran doctrine and lead us along Lutheran lines? If it is so important that we should use Lutheran Literature in the Sunday school, if it is highly necessary that the Lutheran child take a thorough course of catechetical instruction under the pastor, is it *consistent*, when the catechumen has been confirmed, that no attention should be paid by our pastors to the sort of literature that he uses in the Young People's Society? Is it the time, then, to put into his hand Topics (and comments on the same) that have been prepared by non-Lutheran hands, the very best of which avoid doctrinal subjects and make comments so that they can be used by various denominations? Nay! that were suicidal, training the young *away* from their Church. Rather let us use the Topics because they ARE Lutheran. For the very reason that if we love the Church of our fathers, we want to study the Word of God under her guidance and under no other. The Lutheran conception of so many of the biblical truths is so different from that of other schools of religious thought, that we cannot afford to run the risk of having the minds of the young confused by placing in their hands the literature of those who utterly repudiate the distinctive characteristics and features of Lutheranism.

The form of organization or name of your local society need throw nothing in the way of your using these Topics. Use them because they are Lutheran and you will be rejoiced over the result!

We end where we began—viz., the necessity of the study of the Word. The inspired writer calls it a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. An uninspired writer says: "It is the great Hand of God by which He leads His wandering children to the mansions of their Heavenly Father!" Gerhard puts it: "The Scriptures are a jewel cluster made up of the gold of doctrine, the pearls of comfort, the gems of prayer."

(*Continued from page* 13.)

for 1899 by the Literature Committee be adopted by this Convention, and that the matter of Topics for 1900 be left to the selection of the committee.

Resolutions were presented by Rev. J. B. Remensnyder, D.D., relative to the Common Service and Common Hymn Book; by Rev. C. L. Fry on General Diet in Philadelphia on December 27 to 29, 1898; and by Mr. E. A. Miller on the death of F. T. Huber, a member of the Executive Committee, all of which were referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

This session closed with prayer and benediction by Rev. E. E. Neudewitz of Jersey City.

Fifth Session

On Wednesday evening four meetings were held in three churches in New York and one in Brooklyn, at which the same order of service was rendered.

St. Paul's Church

In St. Paul's Church of Harlem, Rev. John A. W. Haas, pastor, President Eilert presided. The speakers were Rev. E. K. Bell, D.D., of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Rev. C. Elvin Haupt of Lancaster, Pa. Dr. Bell's topic was "Power."

Rev. Haupt spoke on "Our Successors."

St. John's Church

At St. John's Church, Rev. J. J. Young, D.D., pastor, Vice-President Stoever presided. Rev. F. P. Mantard of Baltimore spoke on the "Deaconess Work."

Mr. Adolph C. Close of Cleveland, Ohio, addressed the meeting on the "Reading Course." The topic of Rev. J. B. Fox, Ph.D., of Newberry, S. C., was "Co-operation in Our Mission Work."

Gustavus Adolphus Church

Vice-President Rev. Luther M. Kuhns of Nebraska presided in this church, of which Rev. M. Stolpe is the pastor.

Dr. F. C. Gram of Buffalo, N. Y., spoke on the topic, "The Other Side of the Question."

Rev. J. Telleen of Rock Island made an address on "The League and Foreign Missions."

St. Peter's Church

At St. Peter's Church, Brooklyn, Rev. J. J. Heischman, D.D., pastor, Mr. John F. Dinkey, vice-president of New York State, presided. The speakers were Rev. Edwin Heyl Delk of Hagerstown, Md., on "Luther in America," and Mr. George M. Jones of Reading, Pa., whose theme was "Strength and Stimulation."

(Extracts from all the Wednesday evening addresses will be printed in the next number.)

Sixth Session

The Thursday morning session began at 9.15 o'clock. The opening services were conducted by Rev. M. S. Waters of Newark, N. J., who read the Psalm and offered prayer, and by Rev. C. G. Fischer of Elizabeth, N. J., who read the Scripture lesson.

The first matter of business was the amendment to the constitution proposed at the Wednesday morning session, which was unanimously adopted.

The Committee on Nominations then presented the following report:

For President, E. F. Eilert.
For General Secretary, M. C. Olson.
For Assistant General Secretary, C. G. Grauer.
For Statistical Secretary, Geo. M. Jones.
For Treasurer, Cornelius Eckhardt.
Executive Committee—Rev. S. G. Weiskotten. Rev. H. F. Scheele, Wm. C. Stoever, Esq., John F. Dinkey, Charles Steele.

While the constitution makes no provision for a Literary Secretary, owing to the importance of this office we recommend that this Convention elect among its officers a Literary Secretary and an Assistant and recommend the following;

For Literary Secretary, Rev Chas L. Fry.
For Assistant Literary Secretary, Rev. George H. Schnur, Jr

The report was, on motion, received, and the recording secretary was instructed to cast the ballot of the convention for the nominees. This he did, and reported the unanimous election of those selected by the committee.

An invitation was then presented by the Twin Cities League for the National League to meet in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul in 1900.

This invitation was referred to the Executive Committee, and it was resolved that the selection of a place for the next meeting be decided by the Executive Committee.

Upon motion the president was directed to appoint a Finance Committee to serve for the next two years, the chairman of the committee to be a member of the Executive Committee.

The Committee on International League reported as follows:

The work of this committee was apportioned among the different members of the committee. To each was assigned some foreign country where the Lutheran Church is represented. Two of the members have so far failed to make any sort of report whatsoever. A third has reported correspondence with Lutherans in France, England and Russia, but without receiving any answer. A fourth has corresponded with Bishop Von Scheele of Sweden, who replied that he did not deem it feasible to introduce the Luther League into Sweden. He thought that the condition in America warranted a Luther League movement, but doubted whether the organization would fit into Sweden or any part of Scandinavia. The bishop suggested, however, that we approach the Germans through the *Die Allgemeine Lutherische Konferenz.* He sends greetings to this convention, which will be presented by Rev. John Telleen.

The fifth member has corresponded with Lutherans in Norway. The first anwers received were rather discouraging, but one was finally received from a prominent and active superintendent of young peoples' societies in Norway to the effect that, in his opinion, the introduction of the Luther League into that country would prove of considerable benefit and that he would hail its introduction there with great joy, especially as the Luther League of America had taken such a decided stand upon the Augsburg Confession, which fact would prove of decided benefit to that younger element of the church of Norway which to-day shows itself less firm in regard to our Lutheran Confessions. This may be considered as a decided compliment to the Luther League of America.

From this account it is evident that the committee can do no more at this Convention than to report progress. It remains for this Convention to determine whether the committee shall be continued.

It may be added, perhaps, that the attempt to organize an International Luther League should be continued, notwithstanding the exceedingly small progress hitherto made. That there are those in Europe who do not as yet favor the introduction of the Luther League there is not so much to be wondered at, especially if we bear in mind that there are some in the United States who do not favor our movement. It may happen that more favorable points of contact will be reached hereafter, and that, as the idea is disseminated in the lands across the sea, it will fructify into the realization of our hopes. At any rate, it requires time and some effort to move the old world with ideas from the new, especially in matters pertaining to the church.

Your committee would suggest that it or its successor be authorized by this Convention to appoint such suitable persons as may visit Europe to confer with the Lutheran authorities there in regard to the introduction of the Luther League, and for this purpose to make use of such means there as it may deem best.

It was resolved that the report be accepted and the committee continued, with power to increase its membership.

Upon motion it was resolved that the literary secretary and the assistant literary secretary be made members of the new Literature Committee.

The following resolution was then presented:

"*Resolved*, That the Committee on Literature be authorized to solicit manuscript for books of 100 to 250 pages for the Luther League Reading Course, said books to be published if satisfactory arrangements can be made, and to be copyrighted and owned by the Luther League of America."

The resolution was referred to the Literature Committee for such action as it may deem proper.

This resolution was then presented:

"*Resolved*, That the committee in charge of THE LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW be authorized to appoint a sub committee of three to carry to a successful termination a plan whereby the REVIEW shall at once be increased, and that these members shall represent the South, East and West. *Resolved*, That the business manager be a member of this committee."

Rev. J. Telleen at this point presented the greetings of Bishop Von Scheele of Sweden to the Luther League of America.

It was resolved that the Committee on Resolutions acknowledge the greetings.

The report of the Finance Committee was then presented, and upon motion was received and placed on file.

The report of the Auditing Committee was received and filed.

Upon motion the literary secretary was authorized to select the books to comprise the next Reading Course.

The Credentials Committee reported as follows:

Number of delegates registered . .	348
Answered roll call	311

We recommend the election of the following to membership:

Luther League of South Dakota.

Luther League of Minnesota.

Luther League of South Atlantic Coast Region.

Luther League of St. Mark's, Boston.

Luther League of Trinity, Hagerstown.

The same was adopted.

After the singing of the hymn, "At the Name of Jesus," Rev. G. F. Behringer, D.D., of Nyack, N. Y., led in prayer, and the Lord's Prayer, and pronounced the benediction, and the session was adjourned.

Seventh Session

The convention was called to order at 2.30, Rev. J. J. Young, D.D., of New York, conducting the devotional services, consisting of a hymn, the responsive reading of a psalm, prayer, and Scripture lesson.

After the singing of "From Greenland's Icy Mountains," the topic of the afternoon, "Extending the Kingdom," was taken up, Rev. J. C. Bowers of Washington, D. C., speaking on "The Past," Rev. Alfred Ramsey of Minneapolis, Minn., presenting "The Present." Extracts from both addresses are printed on page 21.

Dr. Freas' part of the topic, "Extending the Kingdom," was, on motion, made part of the evening's programme.

Rev. Miller then presented a communication from Dr. Spaeth saying that he regretted his inability to fill the appointment to speak to the young people on the Deaconess work, but that he was prevented by illness.

The communication was received and ordered entered on the minutes.

The Committee on Resolutions then presented its report through the secretary of the committee, Mr. Leander Trautman.

After amendments and corrections the following was adopted unanimously:

1. *Whereas*, Some irregularities in the circulation of the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW have occurred, and we are satisfied the cause of these is the misdirection of correspondence, therefore be it recommended that all take note that business correspondence to the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW should be directed to the business manager only, in order to avoid future irregularities.

2. We recommend the retention of a general business manager, and that an Eastern and Western agent be appointed by him and to act under his supervision.

3. We recommend that the fourth convention of the Luther League of America be held on or about the middle of October, 1900, and that the selection of place for said meeting be left with the Executive Committee.

4, *Resolved*, That we urge all secretaries of State, Central and individual Leagues to make the subject of statistics a matter of *conscience*.

5. The following Luther League organizations have made application for admission into the Luther League of America:

District Luther League of the Atlantic Coast region.

Luther League of St. Mark's Church, Boston, Mass.

Luther League of South Dakota.

Luther League of Minnesota.

Luther League of Trinity Church, Hagerstown, Md.

Resolved, That these be received with hearty welcome.

6. For the purpose of keeping in closer touch with each other, and to stimulate interest in the work,

Be it Resolved, That all Leagues or societies connected with the Luther League of America be requested to make semi-annual reports to the Statistical Secretary, commencing January 1, 1899; the first of said reports to state when the League or society was organized, how many male and female members, and whether they conduct devotional or literary meetings; subsequent reports to contain notices of increase or decrease in membership, changes affecting officers, committees, and other items of interest; said reports to be published in the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW; and in order to facilitate the foregoing we recommend the publication and circulation of official blanks for said statistics.

7. We find the Luther League of America unable financially to salary a general secretary, as recommended by General Secretary Olson. We would, however, recommend that the presidents of the respective State and Central Leagues be urged to strongly encourage the formation of young people's societies in all Lutheran congregations in America, to stimulate them to greater Christian activity, and to foster a spirit of loyalty to the Church.

8. In view of the death of our co-laborer, Mr. Frederick T. Huber, this convention would hereby testify to his noble Christian character and the efficient labor performed by him in the interests of the Church of his love and of this organization. We trust that his earnest life and interest in our beloved Church will be an insipration to all to greater activity and nobler endeavor in the Master's cause.

Resolved, That this minute of our brother's death be spread upon the records of the National League and a copy conveyed to his bereaved family.

9. *Resolved*, That in view of the admirable management and successful conduct of this the Third National Convention in the City of New York by the Committee on Ways and Means, we express our high appreciation of their services and accord them our hearty thanks.

10. In view of the excellent reading course of this association, and its faithful management by the committee in charge, we recommend this course to a more generous reception by all individual societies, and that we hereby express our high appreciation of the committee's faithful and competent services.

11. *Resolved*, That the effort to establish an international Luther League be continued, and that the recommendation of the present International Committee to appoint suitable persons who may visit Europe to confer with the Lutheran authorities there in regard to the introduction of the Luther League, be adopted.

12. We appreciate the greetings of Bishop Von Scheele of Sweden, and recommend that an acknowledgment of this consideration be forwarded to the bishop by the International Committee, and that this committee shall give an official answer to the bishop as to the reasons for the existence of a Luther League in America. Further, we recommend that the said committee recognize the expressions of sympathy for our work received from Norway, Africa, India and China.

13. We have viewed the exhibit of the Lutheran publications as given in Library Hall with much pleasure and satisfaction. This advance in matters of publications of so high merit is an augury of the hopeful future of the Lutheran Church of America, and we recommend that this convention extend its hearty thanks for the same.

14. And, finally,

Be it Resolved, That we accord our heartfelt thanks to the pastor and this congregation for the use of the church, to the organist for her efficient services, and to all who have contributed so largely to our comfort and enjoyable stay in this city.

The convention then joined in singing the hymn, "Lord, Now We Part in Thy Blest Name," after which Rev. A. Steimle of Brooklyn led in prayer, the Lord's Prayer, and pronounced the benediction.

Eighth Session

The rally meeting and closing session of the convention was held in the large Carnegie Hall. One writer says: "This meeting, filling that great auditorium as it did, was an event in American Lutherism. Its success as a rally needs to have been witnessed rather than to be described." Another writes: "This meeting was in some respects the most remarkable Lutheran convocation ever held in this country. It was a typical Lutheran congregation, and although assembled in a place where freedom of decorum is common, there was the same reverence and devotion throughout the long service of more than three hours that characterizes our people wherever the Word of God is read and the Gospel preached. The large and finely directed chorus stirred the hearts of the vast congregation with choice music, and

(*Continued on page 22.*)

Extending the Kingdom

The Past

BY REV. J. C. BOWERS

Our subject presents to the mind not only the great and varied missionary enterprises of our own day, but it carries us onward to significant future scenes, as well as backward in thought to ages long gone by. In order that we may review the past and the way by which the all-wise Providence has brought us hitherto, let us go back through the centuries and listen to the immutable declaration of one who taught that the most thoroughly Christ-like view of life is to know and feel that we are here to do good

REV. J. C. BOWERS

to those around us. We hear the imperishable announcement, "Upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." We hear the Master's world-wide commission given to His disciples, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." We trace the golden threads running through the history of the Kingdom from its establishment to the present. We see the Kingdom born and growing. We see its new trials as it grows in power and numbers. The greatest men are enlisted in its extension. The noblest lives are immolated for its final triumph and its eternal glory. The power of miracles, pre-eminently that of healing, and the Pentecostal gift of tongues became an instrumentality for the spread of the Gospel. Even those things which seemed to hinder tended rather to the furtherance of the Gospel.

Exile and banishment were the common lot of early Christians, but those who were thus condemned carried the blessed message of salvation with them. War lent its helping hand to early missionary effort. The fearlessness, devotion and holy lives of Christian soldiers attracted the attention, won the admiration and carried salvation to the hearts of their enemies. The Reformation inaugurated a new era of missionary enterprise and gave a new impulse to the world. The two fundamental truths—justification by faith alone and the Word of God—became developed. These two cardinal principles were the centers, the circumference, the principium and the finis of Luther's teaching and preaching. With the rapidity of lightning these doctrines spread to every part of the Christian world. A church in one sense is born in a day, in another it is years, even centuries. So it is with the Lutheran Church. It is the perpetuation of the Apostolic Church. The transplanting of the Lutheran Church to the United States, the organization of synods, the increasing number of immigrants and the multiplicity of church buildings inaugurated a new era of missionary enterprise.

Thus we see that extension has gone hand in hand with organization. In the backward sweep of our thoughts we have caught a glimpse of the past. If we should attempt to characterize the past we might fitly call it the era of emancipation, organization and extension. The marvelous extension of the past is prophetic of future greatness. The end is not yet. Most conspicuous of results to-day is the world-wide field for missions. Magnificent as have been the triumphs of the past, yet as a whole it has been but the pioneer work of the century to come. God grant that in the century so soon to dawn upon these fields which have been entered at so great a cost of life and money, there may rise the enterprise of faith and love in a united Lutheran Church. Let us thank God for the closer unity which has been brought about by the golden bands of the Common Service. Let us thank God that the catechism and the Sunday-school were born in the Lutheran Church. Let us thank Him for the precious legacy of the Church festivals. Let us thank Him that this convention is the outcome of the past.

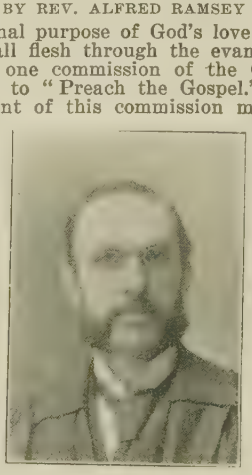
God bless and preserve the Luther League. She is given to you and to me. She is worthy of our toil, our sacrifice and our prayers. She has given, she will give, her glory to the extension of the Kingdom. Let no one fear that she will strive to eclipse the solar orb of the Church by her light. From the beginning we have seen her triumphant, not merely in her defense against assaults, but in the onward movement of her mission in the Church. Long may her banner wave. It is the banner of loyalty and of love.

May she ever go forth hand in hand with the Church, "of the Church, by the Church and for the Church."

The Present

BY REV. ALFRED RAMSEY

The eternal purpose of God's love is the salvation of all flesh through the evangel of His Son. The one commission of the Church instructs her to "Preach the Gospel." The accomplishment of this commission must be the



REV. ALFRED RAMSEY

ultimate aim of every phase of Christian activity. What is the measure of responsibility which under the commission attaches to the Luther League of America?

The reply in part is—

1. The measure of the ability that inheres in purposeful association.

Organization means power. The Luther League of America possesses a large endowment of power. And endowment means duty. The overplus of potential energy that has hitherto been allowed to waste has been put in harness. The magnificent energy of the Church's youth is now in the leash of organization, and the Church may rightfully look to this association for the wise direction of the newly conserved force. Its possession measures our responsibility. "Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required."

2. Our responsibility is measured by the opportunity of the open door.

Opportunity is God's invitation; it is the Divine imperative. Has it ceased from the Earth?

The remarkable recent increase in Lutheran congregations and membership in Greater New York, while unparalleled in any other American city, is indicative of our opportunity, not only there, but in every city of large population. The potency of these cities for evil is appalling; their possibilities for good are pregnant with hope. Whether good or evil be the issue depends upon the aggressive activity of the Church and the wise administration of all its varied machinery. Preponderatingly foreign in their population, the German and Scandinavian portions are marked with the sign manual of Augsburg, whose dwelling here makes this a land of Lutheran promise and this an era of Lutheran opportunity.

And what of the regions that lie beyond; the Canaan of the present age; the mighty West?

Almost one-half of our interoceanic territory lies west of the Mississippi and north of the parallel that marks the southern line of Kansas; an empire of 15 States; an expanse of 1,500,000 square miles; with 12,000,000 people (1890), of whom 330,000 were members of the Lutheran Church. Minnesota, third in Lutheran rank among the States of the Union, has 60,000 more Lutherans than has New York. Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska together lacked in 1890 only 36,000 of having one-fourth of all the Lutherans in all the United States; while through all that vast region, Nevada only excepted, our Church has established her outposts. Everywhere the work is practically in the first stages and calls with urgent voice, "Come over and help us."

What has been said of the trans-Mississippi is equally applicable to the region adjoining it to the eastward. Wisconsin, second among Lutheran States; Illinois, Indiana—these all present conditions most favorable for Lutheran missionary activity. Even now that Western land is ours, but the fragments that remain far exceed the loaves we have in hand. Now is the time of tillage, but the harvest will be sure.

Let us understand "loyalty" in the light of the far-reaching claims of the cause for which the Son of God died. Let us seek information concerning not only the heroic past but the needy present. Then let us labor until we behold the fruit of our labors; until the scattered be brought again; until city and plain no longer cry "Give us bread;" until darkness disappear in light and "the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ."

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when all joined in singing 'Now Thank We All Our God' and Luther's Battle Hymn the effect was indescribable." A third describes it thus: "The Carnegie Hall meeting was all that could be desired—large, enthusiastic, dignified—eminently spiritual and devotional. The spirit of the meeting was well illustrated by the arrangement of the hymns, 'The Church's One Foundation'—the foundation of the service; the 'Rally Hymn,' the fraternal character and earnest purpose of the League; Luther's Battle Hymn, the strong trust of our young Lutherans, and 'America,' setting forth the loyalty of Lutheran citizens."

After an opening prelude by the convention organist, Mrs. Laura Crawford, and the singing of the 150th Psalm by the Choral Union, President Eilert announced that the Scripture lesson would be read by Rev. John W. Smith of Mt. Vernon, N. Y., after which Rev. Frederick H. Knubel would lead in prayer. Incidentally it may be mentioned that both of these young clergymen were active Luther Leaguers before they began their studies for the ministry, Mr. Smith being the first secretary of the New York State League and Mr. Knubel an officer of the first Extension Committee in New York City.

After the singing of "The Church's One Foundation," Rev. W. S. Freas, D.D., of Baltimore, Md., spoke on "Extending the Kingdom—The Future."

The chorus, assisted by a solo quartette, then rendered a cantata, 91st Psalm, ending with a finale by chorus and audience, "Now Thank We All Our Lord." This was magnificently rendered and evoked great applause. The Luther League Rally Hymn was then sung, after which the Hon. George L. Wellington, U. S. Senator for Maryland, was introduced, and spoke on "Martin Luther—His Character and Work." His eloquent tribute to Luther was received with frequent bursts of applause.

The rendering of an anthem, Mendelssohn's "Fest Gesang," by the Choral Union, ending with "A Mighty Fortress," preceded the closing address of the convention, by E. Augustus Miller, Esq., of Philadelphia, on the topic, "The Sound in the Tops of the Mulberry Trees," which was a fitting climax to the convention.

This was followed by the hearty singing of "America," and then, amid breathless silence, Rev. M. W. Hamma, D.D., of Washington, pronounced the benediction, and the vast audience reverently chanted the triple "Amen."

Thus this splendid meeting and a successful convention came to a close.

The Closing Meeting

REV. W. S. FREAS, D.D.

HON. GEO. L. WELLINGTON

E. AUG. MILLER, ESQ.

Extending the Kingdom—The Future

BY REV. W. S. FREAS, D.D. .. .. ..

About this future our youth are profoundly concerned, and not only the young, but the mature, the aged and those about to depart to their eternal reward; all make inquiry as to the things that yet shall be. David wanted to build a temple to the Lord; it was his darling desire, and for it he had planned with wisest statesmanship. Yet God said unto him: "Thou shalt not build me an house. . . . Thy son, whom I will set upon thy throne in thy room, he shall build a house unto my name." And though sorely disappointed, David prepared for that house with all his might, and when done and dedicated it stood in its glory a monument to his devotion as well as for the immortal honor of his brilliant son. In this country are two millions of Lutheran young people, all building, and for the structures they rear the fathers have been diligently preparing many generations. What may be said of the work these youth are to do, the success they shall attain, and those possibilities of influence and power which make God's Church great and glorious?

In dealing with this future no prophetic skill is required; we need indulge in no guesses or rosy day dreams. We are as sure of some things to come as we are certain great buildings will rear themselves when we see the piles of material all ready for the workman's hand. Let me talk to you simply and briefly of some great principles, some distinct lines of power which absolutely control the future.

The first I mention is unity, or co-operation. Our weakness has hitherto been in our separations. As a cosmopolitan Church, working out its great mission in many lands and tongues, we have an undoubted glory and power; but in this land there is also attendant embarrassment and disadvantage. Language, national life, the peculiarities of training of different parts of the Lutheran family produce variations hard to unify and slow to harmonize. But separate, divided, we are powerless. I see in the future the union of all our forces in hearty work for God. I see a great army of youth, without numbers, co-operating, rejoicing together, and pressing on to victory. The Luther League is one of those agencies now operating to make the Church one. It is removing misunderstandings and bringing about the good feeling of actual toil together. We ARE one in doctrine. No candid mind, after reading that remarkable book, "The Distinctive Doctrines and Usages of the Lutheran Church in the United States," can for a moment doubt it. And as certain as anything in the future can be is the sure coming together in true sympathy and co-operation of our beloved Church, wielding her full power, sweeping on gloriously toward the shining goal, "fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners."

In like manner the speaker dwelt upon the mighty force resident in organization and the certainty with which its fruit would be seen and enjoyed in extending the Kingdom, as it became general and effective. He then successively showed how training, the growing wealth of the Church, the increasing intelligence of the people were the seed from which one day a glorious harvest was sure to result.

But all these forces will be in vain unless another factor is present and active. Added to unity and organization, to all material wealth and intellectual force, must be the spirit of consecration and Church love, which lays all on the altar, glad to be used for God and fellow-man. And our youth in increasing numbers are giving to the Lord their best. They are a devoted, earnest band, ready for any good work.

Given the presence and activity of all these forces, and it takes no prophet to foretell the future, or what the issue must be in extending the Kingdom. It means the reign of the King of Kings in and through our beloved Church; it means power divine and human in effective co-operation; it means joy, intense joy, for every loyal son of the Church. I want to live when the King's Son comes to His throne, mounts to his place of power, and carries on to grand fulfillment the plans and longings of consecrated men and women through countless generations. But without living to see the day, I know it will be a glorious time, for the prophet's words will be fulfilled: "Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams and your young men shall see visions."

The Sound in the Tops of the Mulberry Trees

BY E. AUG. MILLER, ESQ.

It is with a feeling of my own incompetence that, at the request of the committee having the matter in charge, I arise to speak the closing words of this Convention. I shall not attempt to, nor do I think it the desire of the committee to have me, deliver an eloquent oration or pre-

(*Continued on page 26.*)

Luther League Review

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE LUTHER LEAGUE
ISSUED MONTHLY BY THE
LUTHER LEAGUE OF AMERICA
IN THE INTERESTS OF
The Lutheran Church and her Young People.
Edited by E. F. Eilert,
WITH
W. C. STOEVER, PHILADELPHIA, PA. H. F. SCHEELE, STAUNTON, VA.
S. G. WEISKOTTEN, BROOKLYN, N. Y.
AS SPECIAL ASSOCIATES,
And the co-operation of the Executive Committee of the Luther League of America.

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Editorial

The Third Convention of the Luther League of America is a thing of the past, as far as the meeting is concerned. What shall be the result? The keynote having been Labor, it behooves us to see in what part of the Lord's vineyard each shall work. If the labor be at hand let us not look abroad; if abroad, let us devote ourselves to that. Loyalty means faith, and "faith without works is dead."

One of the speakers at the first afternoon meeting of the National Convention spoke of education as a thing, although old, ever new, and as a necessary topic upon every Church convention programme. Educate, educate, educate; that will lead to work, and work to results.

The addresses at the convention should be helpful and inspiring to those who heard them, and it is hoped that the influence will be carried by the delegates and visitors to their respective societies and places of work. Those who were not present will have the opportunity of reading part of these addresses in this number, and all are deserving of careful and close reading. It should be esteemed a privilege to read and study the words of the speakers.

The audiences at the various sessions were large and attentive, and much encouragement was felt by the officers and those who arranged the programme. While sentiments were presented by some of the speakers which under other circumstances would have evoked applause, there was not a single instance in which those present expressed their approval in that way. All remembered that they were in the House of God, and that all their actions must be consistent with the place.

The personnel of the speakers and delegates attracted attention among the visitors and the New York residents. The distinguished and active men of our Church, both male and female, were well represented, and the conviction was strongly impressed upon all present that the League is an established fact in the Church, and can and will become a powerful factor in Church work.

The impression made upon us by our late convention is that of solid work and an earnest purpose to build up the Lutheran Church and stir up our young people to a fuller realization of the great and open door which the Lord has set before the Lutheran Church in America. If the spirit which pervaded this convention flows out into our Leagues we fail to see how any Lutheran who has the cause of our beloved Church at heart can hesitate to wish the League "God speed."

It did us good to have the representative men of our great Church bring to the convention such helpful counsel and instruction as were given in the many excellent papers and addresses delivered at the various sessions. The many comments that have since come to us from the delegates convince us that our young people appreciate such substantial food, and that those leaders of thought and activity in our Church who took the pains to prepare these papers and addresses will find the good seed thus sown presently bearing a very rich harvest. Our young people desire such counsel and instruction, such substantial and helpful "food for thought," and wise will the Church be if she gives them what they are seeking.

The music of the convention was exceptionally good. This phase of the meetings will prove a great educator. The trend of the times is toward better and more churchly music. In this our conventions are notably doing their part to educate our young Lutherans. The splendid grand music of the Rally Meeting in Carnegie Hall will not soon be forgotten by those who were privileged to attend that inspiring meeting.

From all quarters come the reports that the convention has proved itself to be what the Executive Committee sought to make it—namely, characterized by solid, earnest, faithful work which cannot fail to give a great impetus to our League work throughout the whole country.

—Owing to lack of space we are obliged to omit from this issue the addresses delivered at the four simultaneous meetings held during the recent National Convention. They will, however, appear in the next number. Senator Wellington's address had not reached us up to the time of going to press. If possible this will also be published next month.

Ye Children of Great Luther's Line

To the L. L. A., New York, 1898

BY REV. ALFRED RAMSEY

Ye children of great Luther's line,
What meaning hath your leagued array;
And whitherward do ye incline;
Your purpose,—is it work or play ?

Your 'scutcheon's fivefold colors gleam
Like heralds of the breaking day;
Come ye to do, or will ye dream
The day's rich promise all away ?

Not boasting, but a service true
Is what approves your loyalty.
Not what you say, but what you do
Can certify your right to be.

Instruction brings an added debt;
He sins who knows but does it not.
True wisdom is not what you get,
But power by which your work is wrought.

To-day is opportunity
And beckons you with wide flung gates.
The past is pledge of what shall be,
Your triumph in to-morrow waits.

Up then, and on, with hearts athrill;
With spirits quick to understand;
Your noblest striving to fulfill
Whatever duty comes to hand.

Important Notice to Luther League Topic Subscribers

There will be an unavoidable delay in mailing Topics to subscribers for the coming quarter, owing to the limited time for their preparation. The entire list for the year was submitted to the delegates to the Luther League of America at the recent convention in New York City and were unanimously approved, thus giving official indorsement of the worth of these studies for our young people.

The assistant literary secretary, Rev. George H. Schnur, Jr., has promised to let me have a copy for the coming quarter by November 15 if possible. He is now hard at work on them and subscribers may rest assured that there will be no unnecessary delay.

Intending purchasers and old subscribers whose subscriptions have expired should send in their orders at once so that a sufficient number may be printed to supply all demands.

These Topics are steadily gaining in favor and this year's outlook seems to be better than ever before

For prices, &c., address

CORNELIUS ECKHARDT,
Business Manager,
1306 V street N W., Washington, D. C.

(*Continued from page 23.*)

sent a carefully prepared paper or thesis, or even a finished address, but my purpose shall be merely to speak a few words, appropriate, I trust, as the volume of the book of this Convention is being closed and clasped, and ere it is placed in the historic archives of this organization.

We are told in the divine Word that the Master at times, after having spoken a parable or delivered a homily, would exclaim to those around Him: "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." The parable of this Convention has been spoken, its words of wisdom and direction, of admonition and inspiration have been uttered, and reverently we exclaim in conclusion: "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear!"

And what is the message that comes to us, trembling upon the kings of memory, to be borne away and treasured as a precious heritage from this Convention? Methinks it is the message that came to David of old, sounding in the tops of the mulberry trees in the valley of Rephaim. Israel had overcome in battle her old enemy the Philistines, but again she stands in battle array against them, and David inquires of the Lord as to His will and desire. The answer comes that he shall get him down to the mulberry trees. "And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself; for then shall the Lord go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines." 'Tis the sound in the tops of the mulberry trees that comes with its rustle as the inspiring memory of this third Convention.

But let us not forget that this sound was not the mere sighing of the wind, which "bloweth where it listeth," 'twas not a mere swaying of the branches and rustling of the leaves as they bend and tremble to the passing breeze, but 'twas the voice of the Almighty giving command to the host of Israel, "Bestir thyself!" 'Tis the grand "Forward, march!" of the Lord of Lords and King of Kings sounding down all along the line of His Church. When He was ready then came the command. In the fullness of time came the sound in the tops of the trees—not too soon, nor yet too late. It is always in the fullness of time that Providence acts. His great gift to man of His Son was "when the fullness of the time was come." And again and again epochs in the history of the Church and of the world are introduced by some great event happening when all things are ready. Man cannot anticipate God. Ishael failed to do so and clamored for a king. The disruption of the nation soon followed.

But do not the conditions and the position of our Lutheran Church in this country to-day seem to indicate that another fullness of time has come in God's providence? Has not the time come when this great branch of His Church should bestir herself and march forward in the grand conflict for the extension of His Kingdom? But not only in the Church as such, but also in the history of the Luther League has the time come for us to be up and doing. The watchword of the first Convention was Loyalty; of the second, Literature; and of this, Labor. But in place of this alliteration let me suggest as the three controlling thoughts in our conventions, Organization, Education, Operation. There is the natural growth and development of any operative force, first the formation of an organic body; second, the knowledge to control and direct; but of what avail these two, no matter how perfect and complete, unless they be manifest or utilized by and through active operation? The Luther League has developed to this end, and it must stand or fall according to the faithfulness of her members in the work of the Church. The Church of the living God is crying to-day for a consecrated Christianity that makes its faith known by its works. We have had portrayed to us to-night with much force the life and work of the great Reformer; and as we listen and think, well may we be proud that our communion bears his name; but, my friends, it is not enough that we have the stamp of Luther upon us, but we must have the heart of Luther within us. What was it that made him the hero if not his great faith and consecrated courage? He *knew* whom he believed, and with great courage proclaimed the truth. How often is God importuned that His Holy Spirit may manifest His power in the extension of the Kingdom! How can the power of dynamite be exhibited when confined in paper tissue? So also, we ask, how can the power of the Spirit of the living God be exhibited in and through the wish-washy Christianity which we find so prevalent to-day? Consecrated Christianity—the spirit of sacrifice, the religion of the cross, as one speaker termed it—this is the present need, that Christ's Kingdom may be established. And 'tis this for which the Lutheran Church in this country is calling, that her great mission may be fulfilled.

You will notice that my position upon the programme to-night is unique. The echo of the great battle hymn of Luther has scarcely ceased. And when I shall have finished these walls will resound with the melody of our national hymn. If you will pardon me, I am the link that unites these two. And so, young Lutherans, would to God that you, organized in this great League movement, holding with the one hand to our dear Church and her faith, and with the other to our beloved country and her destiny, might be the means, in the providence of God, of bringing these two closer and closer together. Our land for Christ! be the battle-cry of our young Lutherans in America, and then forward to accomplishment until the banner of the cross and the star spangled banner entwined shall wave triumphantly over us!

The true patriot is not necessarily the man who shoulders a gun and marches forward to fight the battle of his country, but surely that one, whether man or woman, who, by word and deed, by prayer and thought, seeks to bring this great land of ours under the dominion of the Prince of Peace.

Oh, my friends, the tops of the trees have found a voice! There's a message for us! There's a sound of a going that is significant! 'Tis not the mournful sighing of the winter's blast, telling of disappointed hopes and neglected opportunities. No, not this; but 'tis the glad, happy, hopeful voice of the springtime stirring among the nestling leaves and fresh young branches. 'Tis the voice of God calling to you, to me, "Bestir thyself, for, behold, I, the Lord, go out before thee, conquering and to conquer!" He that hath an ear to hear, let him hear!

Pennsylvania Cab Service.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company has just put into operation in connection with its Sixth Street Station, Washington, D. C., a complete and efficient cab service similar to that in operation at Broad Street Station, Philadelphia, and West Twenty-third Street Station, New York. The service is performed by brand new rubber-tired coupés, victorias, and omnibuses at very reasonable rates, and in the same prompt and satisfactory manner that has characterized the service in other cities.

Our Churches and Institutions

IN SOME OF THE CITIES

New York City

— The new St. Paul's Church 156th street and Westchester avenue, Rev. G. Tappert, pastor, was dedicated with appropriate services on October 23.

— On Reformation Day the German Lutheran Emigrant House celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary with appropriate services in Association Hall. On October 18 Rev. W. Berkemeier, the house father, celebrated his seventy-ninth birthday.

— The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Advent, Rev. G. F. Krotel, D.D., pastor, New York City, moved into new and more comfortable and attractive quarters, 477 Western Boulevard, between Eighty-third and Eighty-fourth streets, on September 25.

Brooklyn

— The Bethlehem Church, Rev. Dr. Jacobson, pastor, is making an effort to lift its floating indebtedness of $9,000.

— Ground was broken last month for the new Christ English Lutheran Church in Lafayette avenue near Broadway. Former Mayor Charles A. Schieren began the work. He helped to found the church society three years ago. He made an address. Other speakers were the Rev. S. G. Weiskotten, the Rev. A. Steinle, the Rev. Rev. H. S. Knabenschuh, the pastor and others. The edifice, with the ground, will cost $35,000. The congregation has a membership of 250.

— Zion's congregation, Rev. E. C. J. Kraeling, pastor, on Sunday, October 9, reopened its renovated church with appropriate services.

— At the fourth anniversary services of the Church of the Redeemer the pastor, Rev. S. G. Weiskotten, raised $15,000 to pay off the remaining indebtedness on the church. Two members offered to give $6,000 if the remaining $9,000 were subscribed, and at the morning service the amount was contributed.

— Rev. J. J. Heischman, D.D., celebrated the twentieth anniversary of his ministry and the twentieth year of his pastorate of St. Peter's congregation on October 9 with very interesting and appropriate services.

Philadelphia

On September 25 Zion's congregation, Rev. J. E. Nidecker pastor, celebrated the 150th anniversary of the dedication of its first church. The 150th anniversary of the founding of St. Michael's Church was celebrated on September 11 at Zion Church.

— The Lutheran Publication Society has removed to its new building, 1424 Arch street.

— The corner-stone of the new Sunday school chapel of the Church of the Trinity, Eighteenth and Wolf streets, was laid on Sunday afternoon, October 2, 1898, and addresses were made by the Revs. S. A. Ziegenfus, D.D., W. Ashmead Schaeffer, D.D., and Hon. John Wanamaker.

— The Church of the Ascension will hereafter hold its services in the new Seminary Hall, Mount Airy. The opening services were held on Sunday, October 2, Rev. Dr. J. Fry, the pastor, preaching at the morning service. In the afternoon there was a special Sunday school service, with brief addresses, and the Rev. Dr. Seiss preached at 4 p.m.

Baltimore

— The beautiful St. Mark's Church, Rev. W. H. Dunbar, D.D., pastor, was dedicated on November 6, the services continuing until the 10th.

— Rev. William S. Freas, D.D., was installed on October 2 as pastor of Grace English Lutheran Church.

Buffalo

— A large joint Reformation service was held in St. John's Lutheran Church, Revs. Kirsch, Kaehler, Kretschmann, Bachmann and Barnham, with their congregations, participating.

Cincinnati

— Rev. Ezra K. Bell, D.D., has tendered his resignation as pastor of the First Church, Cincinnati, and expects to take charge of the work in St. Luke's Church, Mansfield, November 15.

Boston

— The twenty-fifth anniversary of Rev. C. F. Johanson's pastorate in Boston, Mass., was celebrated by his congregation on November 2 to 6.

Chicago

— Rev. W. S. Hinman, D.D., has accepted a call to Grace Church, Chicago, Ill.

Jersey City

— St. Matthew's, Zion and Christ Lutheran churches of Jersey City held a joint Reformation Festival in Christ Church, Rev. C. B. Rabbow, pastor, on October 3.

— Rev. Sylvester Clark Burger, who has been in the employ of the Home Mission Board during the summer at Jersey City, N. J., sailed for India on October 29.

NEW YORK STATE

— On October 28 the Church of Holy Communion, Utica, N. Y., celebrated the tenth anniversary and the tenth year of the pastorate of Rev. G. A. Bierdemann. Rev. J. J. Heischmann, D.D., of Brooklyn, delivered the address.

— Rev. Wm. H. Stutts of Buffalo, N. Y., accepted the unanimous call extended him by St. John's of Manorton, N. Y., and entered upon the labors of that field on October 1.

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PENNSYLVANIA

— Christ Lutheran Church of Spry, Pa., was dedicated on October 9. Rev. Moses Grossman is the pastor.

— St. John's congregation, East Mauch Chunk, Pa., on September 18 celebrated its twentieth anniversary. Rev. M. B. Schmoyer is the pastor.

— The 140th jubilee of Zion's Church at Zionsville, Rev. J. B. Ritter, pastor, was celebrated on September 11.

— St. Peter's Lutheran Church, South Bethlehem, Rev. W. F. Schoener, pastor, dedicated a $3,500 pipe organ on September 18.

— Rev. E. L. Miller, formerly president of the Luther League of Pennsylvania, has been called to St. Mark's, Williamsport, as the successor of the late Chaplain Rick.

NEW JERSEY

— On October 2 Rev. F. Krapf was installed pastor of Trinity English Lutheran Church, Elizabeth. Revs. C. A. Miller and G. Doering conducted the service.

— Rev. Christian G. Fischer recently completed 15 years of service as pastor of the German Lutheran Church of Elizabeth. On the afternoon of September 15 the Ladies' Aid Society surprised their pastor and presented him with a beautiful dining-room set in appreciation of his faithful service.

MISCELLANY

— The General Council has organized a church at Racine, Wis., with 32 members. This organization embraces Germans, Danes, English and Welsh.

— Rev. Charles S. Trump celebrated his tenth anniversary as pastor of St. John's Church at Martinsburg, W. Va., on October 16th. During these 10 years 372 members have been received.

— Revs. M. L. Zweizig and A. C. Anda, missionaries of the General Council on the Pacific Coast, have accepted calls in the East and will remove in the near future.

— Rev. and Mrs. McNair, missionaries in Japan, are visiting in this country. Rev. McNair, who is a brother of Mrs. F. A. Kaehler of Buffalo, has been a missionary in Japan for over 15 years.

— Rev. G. H. Gerberding, D.D., the fraternal delegate of the General Council to the recent session of the Joint Synod, was most cordially received. There is a decided tendency toward more friendly relations on the part of all our general bodies.

The Pennsylvania Railroad's Magnificent Service bet. New York and Washington.

Nowhere in America can be found a superior train service to that on the Pennsylvania Railroad between New York and Washington. The most magnificent equipment which American genius has produced is in constant use on this line, and all that the Pennsylvania Railroad stands for in safety, in comfort, in speed, and in general superiority is exhibited here. The "Congressional Limited," which is acknowledged to be the finest Pullman parlor train in the world, leaves West Twenty-third Street Station daily at 3.20 P. M. Additional fast express trains leave nearly every hour.

The return service is equally complete and convenient.

Book Reviews

CHRISTIAN TRUTH AND LIFE. Sermons by Milton Valentine, D.D., LL.D. Lutheran Publication Society, Phila. Cloth, pp 358.

Doubtless these 26 sermons will receive a generous welcome from those who have been students under Dr. Valentine. The writer, himself one of those pupils, enjoys the possession and reading of them. Many are baccalaureate sermons. Although, as a result, there is an occasional tendency to go beyond the depths of "the common people," yet the book abounds in that which is instructive, inspiring, helpful and practical for all. There is a large element of that sweet reasonableness present which must pervade every faithful presentation of God's truth—not argument, not attempted defense of Christianity, but the witness of the Spirit with our spirit. In this connection we might say that we miss emphasis in the sermons upon that which is the cause of this convincingness, and which is so important a part of Lutheran faith and teaching—the mightily empowering Spirit, Who dwells in Word and Sacraments; surely sermons XI and XVII offered such opportunity. However, doctrine is not wanting; doctrine and practice, or, as the title has it, "Truth and Life," are well proportioned. In homiletical form the sermons are almost perfection. This was to be expected from the logical doctor. We sometimes wished in reading that division and subdivision (I, II and 1, 2, 3) had not come with such regular, clear cut beat. We hope the sermons will be read by many, especially by educated men.

The First Book

of the reading course recommended by the Luther League of America is

The Lutheran Manual,

By REV. J. B. REMENSNYDER, D.D.

This book handsomely bound in modern library style will be sent, postpaid, to any address, on receipt of price, $1.00.

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Luther League of America

Organized at Pittsburgh, Pa., October 30 and 31, 1895, by delegates representing State, District and individual organizations from twenty different States in the Union and the District of Columbia.

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Cor. Sec'y, REV. F. M. ECKMAN, - - - Centre City.

LUTHER LEAGUE OF THE TWIN CITIES.
Pres., REV. E. G. LUND, - - Minneapolis, Minn.
Sec'y. MISS ANNIE QUAMM, - Minneapolis, Minn.

LUTHER LEAGUE OF RED RIVER VALLEY.
Pres., PROF., E. D. BUSBY, - - Moorehead, Minn.
Sec'y, REV. L. S. MAVRICK, - - - Hatton, N. D.

NEW YORK

New York City

— On Tuesday, November 15, the Luther League of New York City held its bi-monthly delegates' meeting in St. Mark's Church, Rev. Geo. C. F. Haas, pastor. A report was heard from the Ways and Means Committee of the National League, making a splendid showing, both financially and otherwise. After paying all expenses and turning over all offerings of the convention sessions to the National Treasurer the committee has still a small balance on hand. The delegates to the National and State conventions also reported. Rev. J. F. W. Kitzmeyer then addressed the meeting on "Thoughts from the National Convention."

Brooklyn

— Efforts are being made by the Brooklyn Central to publish a Brooklyn edition of the REVIEW, so as to arouse a greater interest in the work among all the churches.

— The Luther League of Christ Church, Rev. Knabenshuh, pastor, celebrated Luther Day with an appropriate programme.

Rochester

— The Luther League of Rochester recently held its fall convention in Pittsford, N. Y. Fifty-four delegates besides the local delegation were in attendance. A paper on "Lutheran Piety" proved one of the most instructive features of the programme. The consensus of opinion was that Lutheran Piety is cheerful without being offensive and deep without being ascetic.

— The anniversary of the Luther League of the English Church of the Redeemer, Binghamton, N. Y., was celebrated on Reformation Sunday evening. The church was beautifully decorated with palms, the Luther League badge and colors, with bunting and United States flags. The League's president, J. P. Klee, presided. Mrs. F. P. Stout and Mrs. J. P. Klee, delegates to the State Convention, and the pastor, Rev. W. J. Bieber, national delegate, presented convention reports, and Mr. Charles E. Frazier read a history of the local League. A missionary service, led by Mr. E. F. Hopton, the Sunday school superintendent, was held on the same evening. Dr. T. B. Van Alstyne read a paper on Home Missions. The offerings were devoted to home missions.

Buffalo

— The semi-annual convention of the Luther

League of Buffalo was held on Luther's birthday, November 10, at Christ's Church. Addresses were delivered by Rev. Kretschmann and Rev. Kirsch.

— The third anniversary meeting of the Lutheran Aids of Holy Trinity, Rev. Herman Brezing, pastor, was held October 6. The secretary stated in her report: "The work of the last year may be classified under four heads: 1. Work for the Swedish Orphanage at Jamestown. 2. Home and foreign mission work. 3. Visiting church members and Sunday school scholars. 4. Decorating the church. The treasurer reported receipts for whole year, $150. The society numbers only 14 members, but its work along the indicated lines has been a blessing and greatly appreciated by the pastor.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

— At the annual meeting of the Philadelphia Central Luther League, held in St. Luke's Church in October, the reports showed that the organization had continued to grow during the past year. The following officers were elected: Pres., Rev. George C. Loos; sec., H. B. Keller; stat. sec., Dr. J. E. Harpel; treas., Rev. E. R. Cassady.

— The Luther League of Bethlehem Church, Rev. George C. Loos, pastor, held its first anniversary on October 4. The president, Mr. Chas. O. Eliassen, gave the address of welcome. The secretary, Miss Mame C. Shuster, gave a résumé of the year's work. An interesting fact in her report was the increase in membership from 21 to 59. Several vocal solos were rendered, and Wm. C. Stoever, Esq., and E. Aug. Miller, Esq., both well-known League workers, made splendid addresses.

— The Luther Social Union of Philadelphia held its annual banquet on October 24. Rev. L. M. Kuhns of Omaha addressed the Union on the social factor in the upbuilding of the Kingdom of God, and Rev. G. W. Sandt on three important problems for the Lutheran Church in America to solve. Wm. F. Miller of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church was elected president in place of Wm. H. Staake, Esq., and A. C. Albrecht of St. Luke's was chosen secretary in place of E. Aug. Miller, Esq.

Bucks, Montgomery and Chester Counties

— The Extension Committee of the B. M. C. Central Luther League, assisted by Frank L. Brown, president of the League, are making efforts to extend the work of the Luther League in their territory, especially among the General Synod churches. Strange to say, there are none of the General Synod young people's societies in these counties belonging to the Luther League.

— The St. James' Luther League of Pottstown Pa., at its regular meeting, October 12, was addressed by Frank L. Brown of Norristown, president of the Central League, and J. Smith Hoffman of the League of the Church of the Transfiguration, Pottstown.

Allentown District

— The fifth semi-annual convention of the Luther League of the Allentown District was held in St. John's Lutheran Church, Allentown, Rev. S. A. Repass, D.D., pastor, on November 10. Addresses were delivered by Wm. C. Stoever, Esq., of Philadelphia, president of the State Luther League, on "What's in a Name?" Rev. R. W. Hufford, D.D., of Reading, on "The Young Man and the Church," and Rev. C. Armand Miller on "The Finger of God in the Reformation."

— The Luther League of Grace Church, Bethlehem, Rev. Frank F. Fry, pastor, enters upon its ninth year of activity and usefulness under circumstances full of promise. Its present membership is nearly 200. For the fall and winter season a special course of lectures has been provided. Prof. Geo. W. Twitmeyer, superintendent of Bethlehem public schools, will speak on "The Value of Young People;" Rev. Chas. L. Fry of Lancaster on "The Great Northwest and Its Wonderland;" E. Aug. Miller, Esq., of Philadelphia on "The Point of View;" Rev. G. U. Wenner, D.D., of New York on "Travels in Germany."

— The ninth semi-annual convention of the Bangor Local Central was held on October 27, in Trinity Church, Rev. E. A. Yehl, pastor, Bangor, Pa. This central comprises the Leagues of Bangor, East Bangor, Pen Argyl, Stroudsburg, East Stroudsburg, Stone Church, Nazareth, Bath and Chapman's. Miss Emma S. Mann of the local society welcomed the delegates, to which Milton M. Speer of Delabole, president of the Local Central, responded. Rev. E. A. Yehl spoke on "Know No Discouragements;" Rev. G. S. Kleckner on "Luther League Literature;" Rev. J. W. Lazarus of Stone Church on "How Can the League Be Improved?" Rev. C. E. Blethen of East Bangor on "What Can Lutheran Young People Do for Their Church and Pastor?" Rev. J. W. Heintz of East Stroudsburg on "To What Extent Should the League Be Engaged in Mission Work?"

Winter Excursion Tickets on the Pennsylvania Railroad.

On November 1 the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will place on sale at its principal ticket offices excursion tickets to all prominent Winter resorts in New Jersey, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Cuba. The tickets will be sold at the usual low rates, with the usual liberal return limits.

The magnificent facilities of the Pennsylvania Railroad, with its many connections, make this the favorite line for Winter travel.

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MEMORIAL WINDOWS

Northeastern Central

— The Northeastern Central, Pennsylvania Division, Luther League of America, as it has been uniquely styled on the programme, held its Fall Convention in St. John's Church, Wilkes-Barre, Rev. W. L. Hunton, pastor, on October 28. The topics discussed were: "Steps Toward Becoming a Deaconess," by Mary Kaucher of Scranton; "Lutheran Literature," by Prof. F. E. Swingle of Nanticoke; "The Benefits of the Luther League to the Church at Large," by Mary A. Good of Hobbie; "The Use of the League Topics," illustrated, by Miss Emma Schuler of Scranton. At the evening session Rev. F. A. Kaehler of Buffalo delivered a masterly address on "Have We Learned to Say 'No?'" Rev. H. F. J. Seneker reported for the delegates to the State and National conventions.

— The Solomon League of St. Paul's German Church, Wilkes-Barre, Rev. J. Nieman, pastor, celebrated its first anniversary Tuesday evening, September 27.

Reading League

— The Central Luther League of Reading, Pa., and vicinity held its annual meeting in St. Matthew's Church, Rev. R. W. Hufford, D.D., pastor, on October 13. It was purely a business meeting. The retiring president, Rev. M. C. Horine, D. D., in a brief but emphatic talk, said in part: "The work of the Luther League ought to be in the hands of the laymen, as it was originally intended. The ministers should guide, direct and encourage the work and workpeople by lending them aid and presence." The following were elected the officers for the year: James F. Rhoades, pres.; Rev. R. W. Hufford, D. D., first vice-pres.; H. K. Krouse, second vice-pres.; Minnie E. Miller, rec. sec.; Laura Schmehl, cor. sec.; J. C. Lengle, treas. Grace Luther League, Rev. William H. Myers, pastor, at its annual meeting, held September 29, elected the following officers, C. C. Esterly, pres.; H. W. Spohn, first vice-pres.; Ed C. Esterly, second vice-pres.; William L. Fisher, rec. sec.; Lillie M. Sleath, cor. sec.; H. Z. Esterly, fin. sec.; George H. Kiehl, treas. The annual reports of the several committees showed very satisfactory and encouraging results in the work espoused.

Lancaster and Vicinity

— The ninth semi-annual Convention of the Central Luther League of Lancaster County was held in Grace Church, Lancaster, Rev. C. Elvin Haupt, pastor, on Thursday, October 6. Rev. F. W. Wackernagel delivered the convention sermon. Dr. D. McCaskey opened the discussion on the topic, "The Luther Leaguer as a Soldier." Other topics discussed were: "Usefulness," by Rev. McClanahan; "Principle and Interest," by Prof. R. K. Buehrle, Ph. D.; "What Next?" by President William C. Stoever of the State League of Pennsylvania. At the evening session addresses were delivered by Rev. C. S. Albert, D. D., of Philadelphia, and Rev. T. E. Schmauk, D. D., of Lebanon.

— A Luther League was organized in Trinity English Church, Lebanon, Rev. J. H. Raker, pastor, on September 30. The following officers were elected: Pres., William Tyndall; vice-pres., Miss Mary U. Reinoehl; Prof. Milton Philips; sec., Miss Annie Potteiger; treas., Charles Kohr. The first meeting was held on Sunday evening October 2. The meetings will be held every Sunday evening before the church service. The Luther League Topics are being used.

York District

— The C. E. Society of Zion's Church, York, Pa., recently gave $25 for the support of a *protégé* in India.

— The Endeavor Society of Shrewsburg, Pa., has also given $12.50 for the support of a *protégé* in India.

Williamsport Central

— The Convention of the Williamsport Luther League Central, held at Milton, Pa., September 22, was largely attended. Fifty delegates were present, including 13 ministers. Rev. J. M. Reimensnyder, D. D., was re-elected president. A very interesting and profitable programme has been prepared. The local society treated the delegates to a free trolley ride to the "Milton Park," and served a luncheon at the church. It was one of the most delightful gatherings of young people ever held in that vicinity.

Greensburg District

— The Mission League of Dr. Yount's church at Greensburg at its last meting appropriated $5 to each of the following objects: The Passavant Hospital, Pittsburg; Emanuel Lutheran Mission, Allegheny, and a Lutheran mission in Chicago.

OHIO AND KENTUCKY

— The Young People's Society of the Swedish Church at Ashtabula is gathering money for an iron fence to be put up in front of the church; the Young Ladies' Sewing Society is raising money wherewith to buy a bell, and the Women's Society keeps an eye on the general expenses.

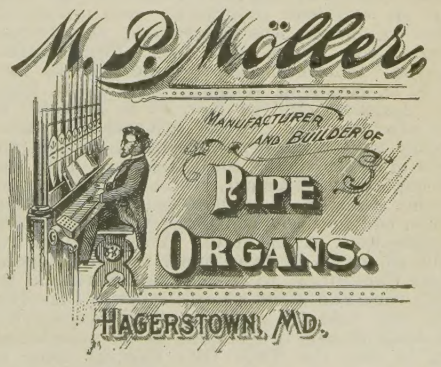
— A meeting of the Louisville Luther League Central was held in the St. Paul's Church on Sunday, November 13, 1898. Reports next month.

— The C. E. Society of the First Church, Louisville, Rev. S. S. Waltz, D. D., pastor, has given $35 to Beneficiary Education and Home Mission purposes.

MINNESOTA

Twin City Central

The Twin City Central Luther League held its first annual Convention on October 11, in St. John's English Evangelical Lutheran Church of Minneapolis, Minn. This Central was organized last February, when Prof. E. G.



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Lund was elected president and Carl F. Werner, Esq., recording secretary. The Convention was opened with religious exercises conducted by Rev. F. E. Jensen of St. Paul. The first paper was read by Rev. G. H. Trabert, D.D., of Salem English Church, Minneapolis, on the subject "English in Relation to the Work of Our Lutheran Church in the West." The second paper, on "The Luther League as the Pastor's Aid," was read by Rev. N. J. Loehre of St. Paul's Norwegian Church. This was a most excellent production and called forth an interesting discussion. The election of officers resulted in the choice of Rev. G. H. Trabert, D. D., of Minneapolis, pres.; Robert Otto of St. Paul, rec. sec.; Miss Christine Benson of Minneapolis, cor. sec., and Rev. F. E. Jensen of St. Paul, treas. Delegates were elected to the National Convention in New York. In the evening an excellent programme was presented, when an address was delivered by the ex-president, Prof. Lund, on "The Ideal Luther League," followed by shorter addresses by Rev. A. J. D. Haupt of Memorial Church, St. Paul, on "Loyalty," and by Rev. F. E. Jensen. In the afternoon the Central adjourned to immediately meet in general convention for the purpose of organizing a State League. This was an important movement, as there are numerous Luther Leagues in various parts of the State which can now come in touch with the general League work of the State. A constitution was adopted, to be in force until the first regular State Convention, to be held next Spring at the same time and place where the Twin City Central will hold its meeting. The meeting will no doubt be held in St. Paul, as the understanding is that the Twin City Central holds its meetings alternately in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Officers of the State League are: Pres., Prof. E. G. Lund; rec. sec., Rev. N. J. Loehre; cor. sec., K. Swenson, all of Minneapolis, and treas., Mr. Merrill of St. Paul. Thus another State is organized for aggresive Luther League work. Delegates were elected to the National Convention.

— The Young People's Union of the Minnesota Swedish Conference, and comprising societies of the St. Paul, Chicago and Mississippi districts, held their third annual Convention in the First Church of St. Paul, Rev. Johnston, pastor, September 21 and 22. The Convention was a success from beginning to end. Four sessions were held. Rev. Carl A. Swensson, Ph.D., president of Bethany College, was the principal speaker. The other speakers were Rev. Th. Kjellgren, Rev. C. J. Petri, Rev. L. O. Cavallin, Rev. P. Thelander and Rev. J. Telleen. The officers of the League are: Rev. L. A. Johnston, pres.; M. Lindgren, sec.; G. W. Olson, cor. sec., and J. Holmen, treas.

— A Young People's Society was recently organized at Maple Ridge, Minn., whose avowed purpose is to raise money for the support of Gustavus Adolphus College.

— The Young People's Society of the Swedish congregation at Bernadotte, Minn., has donated $35 to the Gustavus Adolphus College.

MARYLAND AND THE SOUTH

— On October 11 Company H, First Maryland Regiment, of the Boys' Brigade, held its second anniversary at Grace Church, Baltimore, Rev. W. S. Freas, D.D., pastor. The president and

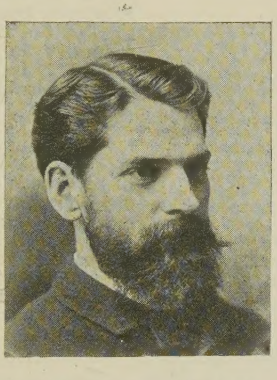
(*Continued on page* 34.)

Luther League of New York State

THE sixth annual convention of the Luther League of New York State was held on the evening of October 17 and the morning of October 18 in St. James' Church, New York.

The opening session on Monday evening was begun with an organ prelude, followed by an anthem by the Luther League Choral Union. The pastor of St. James', Dr. Remensnyder, conducted the opening devotional services and extended greetings to the convention. President John F. Dinkey responded. After another anthem Rev. H. Douglas Spaeth of Eastern Pennsylvania delivered an address on "What Is the Luther League Doing for the Lutheran Church?" Rev. John A. W. Haas, in the absence of Rev. Seegers of Albany, spoke on "Reformation—Conservatism—Progress."

The president appointed a Committee on Nominations, and after the singing of a hymn, prayer and benediction the session adjourned.



JOHN F. DINKEY, PRESIDENT.

Morning Session

The Tuesday morning session began at 9.30. The devotional services were conducted by Revs. C. T. McDaniel of Hudson and F. H. Knubel of New York.

The president, Mr. John F. Dinkey, presented his annual report and the same was referred to the Committee on Reports of Officers, as was also the report of the treasurer.

The report of the statistical secretary, Mr. Henry W. Utz, was presented in printed form, showing the membership to be 7 District Leagues, 99 societies and a total membership of 6,750.

The president hereupon introduced Rev. J. M. Reimensnyder, D.D., of Milton, Pa., fraternal delegate of the Luther League of Pennsylvania, who presented the greetings of that League.

Rev. John A. W. Haas offered his report as delegate to the Pennsylvania League, which was accepted.

Mr. W. C. Stoever, president of the Pennsylvania League, was presented to the convention and spoke a few words of greeting.

The following committees presented reports: Committee on Literature, Extension of Work, Executive, and Credentials, all of which were accepted.

The Nominating Committee presented the following nominees:

Pres., J. F. Dinkey, Rochester.
Cor. sec., C. H. Bogel, Brooklyn.
Rec. sec., D. A. Weight, New York.
Stat. sec., Henry Utz, Rochester.
German sec., Rev. E. F. Bachman, Buffalo.
Treas., Rev. C. T. McDaniel, Hudson.

The same was received and the secretary was instructed to cast one ballot for the nominees. The same was done and the officers elected unanimously.

It was moved, seconded and carried "That a committee be appointed to arrange to have canvassers to introduce the Reading Course to Lutheran families throughout the State."

The reports of the Committees on Resolutions and officers' reports were then heard and adopted.

Rev. F. A. Kaehler of Buffalo was called upon for parting words, and then the convention rose and joined in the singing of the hymn "Abide With Us, Our Saviour," and after prayer, the Lord's Prayer and benediction the convention adjourned *sine die*.

A Convention Prayer.

BY C. J. WINCIERZ.

Lord, grant that while we live,
To Thee deep thanks we give,
For Luther's birth—
He who, not seeking fame,
Brandished Truth's Sword of Flame,
Smote Falsehood in Thy name
And shook the earth

O, Father, Thee we pray,
Let in us, day by day,
Thy Spirit grow;
That firm in Faith we stand,
Uniting, hand in hand,
Lutherans throughout our land—
Yea, grant it so!

Master, Thy blessings give
To all the aims that live
Found in our cause;
Preserve our spirits meek,
Strengthen, uplift the weak—
That all Thy Kingdom seek,
Work without pause.

OCTOBER 20, 1898.

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Luther League Topics

1st Week in Advent. November 27, 1898.

Awakening from the Sleep of Death.

(1 Thess. 4:13 to 5:6.)

Advent brings us joyous memories and glorious promises. The Prince of Heaven came to earth to rescue and to save. Again He will come as the King of all the universe to lead the hosts of the redeemed home to glory.

Death, a sleep. Deut. 31:16; Matt. 9:24; John 11:11-13; Acts 7:60; Paul (ver. 14) ascribes such a power to Christ's death that ours is but a sleep. His resurrection has taken away death's power and sting. 1 Cor. 15:20-23, 55-57.

The summons to awake shall come from the King. John 11:25; Rev. 1:18. "The Lord himself shall descend with a shout." His victorious cry will bring the dead to life. John 11:43, ver. 16. "It will not be the soft sighing of a lute. . . . a mighty trumpet peal will awaken and renew us all."—Luther.

The fact of the resurrection is attested by Scripture. Christ and his apostles plainly affirmed it as based upon and involved in His resurrection and as including that of both the righteous and the wicked. Matt. 22:30; Luke 14:14; John 5:28-29; 1 Cor. 15:12-22, ver. 16. Nature adds her testimony: "Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."—Luther.

Our glorified bodies will be identical with those that died. Phil. 3:21; 1 Cor. 15:53-54; John 5:28. This identity does not refer to atoms of matter, but "lies in the permanent impress which the soul has made upon the body." Like Christ's, John 20:27. "Though clearly the same body that hung on the cross and laid in the tomb, yet how changed, how spiritualized! With what exalted attributes it acted! Like His, will be those of His followers."—Valentine.

In application we select two practical lessons. First (ver. 1-6), "Watch and be sober." Do I look forward to that "Awakening" with joy? Secondly (ver. 18), "Comfort one another." It is indeed a blessed comfort that when your Christian dear ones depart "ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope."

Suggested Hymns (Luther League Hymnal) 73, 74, 77, 79, 80, 249.

(*Continued from page 32.*)

commander-in-chief of the United Boys' Brigade of America, Gen. O. C. Grauer, made the principal address, and Gen. F. W. Kakel, president of Company H, also addressed the boys.

— The Central Luther League of Newberry County, S. C., met in Newberry October 15. The devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. J. D. Bowles. Vice-President A. E. P. Bendenbaugh presided over the meeting, President S. J. Derrick being absent. "Has the Central League Benefited the Individual Societies?" was discussed by J. L. Goggans, Revs. J. D. Bowles and J. B. Fox. Revs. H. P. Counts, J. D. Bowles and E. B. Setzler discussed "In the League Which Has Proven the Better Workers—Male or Female? Why?" Then "Shall We Send a Delegate to the National League" was thoroughly discussed by Revs. J. D. Bowles, J. B. Fox, W. K. Sligh and Prof. E. B. Setzler. A resolution was adopted that the Central League join the National League at its next session. Dr. J. B. Fox was elected the delegate. Miss Elizabeth Dominick read an essay on the "History of the Luther League." St. Philip's was suggested as the place for the meeting of the League in January, 1899, at which time the officers will be elected for the year.

ILLINOIS

— The annual meeting of the Lutheran Women's League of Chicago was held September 30, in St. Paul's Church. Papers on Lutheran Sunday school work and social settlements of Chicago were read by Mrs. G. H. Gerberding and Mrs. W. H. D. Marr. The officers elected for the coming year are: Pres., Miss Vesta E. Severinghaus; vice-pres., Mrs. A. F. Olgen; sec., Mrs. W. H. D. Marr; treas., Mrs. C. G. Peterson; directors, Mrs. H. J. Forsyth, Mrs. A. Foerster and Mrs. George Peterson.

IOWA.

— A Luther League was recently organized in Rock River congregation, Sioux County, Iowa, Rev. Thorp's charge, with a membership of 18. The officers are: E. P. Vilaud, pres.; M. Easthouse, vice-pres.; Miss Julia Taft, sec.; Miss Emma Hemmington, asst. sec., and M. M. Taft, treas.

CONNECTICUT

— The Luther League of Central Connecticut celebrated Luther Day, November 10, with a grand rally in Trinity Church, New Haven, Conn., Rev. J. A. Timm, pastor. Rev. J. F. W. Kitzmeyer was the speaker and made a very forceful address.